Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. March 1878.

CONFIDENTIAL.

PART XXII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

February 1878.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1	Consul Kirby Green..	8 Political	Jan. 20, 1878	Inclosing despatches on erroneous announcement of Armistice and fall of Dulcigno ..	1
2	" " ..	9 Political	20,	Authorities at Scutari have received no explanation from Porte respecting erroneous announcement of Armistice	2
3	" " ..	11 Political	21,	Defeat of Turks by Montenegrins near Dulcigno. Turks not confident of being able to offer successful resistance at Gorica ..	3
4	Count Beust to Count Andrassy	Telegraphic Confidential	28,	Conversation with Lord Derby. England and Austria should oppose Russia's determining questions in which other Powers are interested. Lord Derby thinks England would only fight for Dardanelles question ..	3
5	Lord Lyons . ..	79	30,	Validity of future Treaty between Russia and Turkey. Her Majesty's Government cannot recognize any Treaty not agreed to by Parties to Treaty of Paris. Incloses *note verbale* which he has communicated to M. Waddington	4
6	Lord Lyons ..	80 Confidential	30,	Conversation with M. Waddington respecting the above declaration of Her Majesty's Government and the question of the Straits	4
7	Admiralty	..	31,	Inclosing despatch from Commander Day, reporting the murder of three Bulgarian prisoners near Alexandretta	5
8	Mr. Layard ..	135 Telegraphic	30,	Porte begs that Turkish prisoners in Russia may receive sheepskin coats at expense of Porte	6
9	" " ..	136 Telegraphic	30,	Consul at Rodosto telegraphs that Russians are marching on Keisat (? Keshan)	6
10	Lord A. Loftus ..	5 Telegraphic	31,	Memorandum respecting Gallipoli. Assent of Prince Gortchakow to its being communicated to Porte	6
11	Mr. Layard . ..	139 Telegraphic	31,	There are more than 3,000 British subjects at Constantinople	6
12	" " . ..	140 Telegraphic	31,	Learns from secret source that Russians have demanded that Peace should be signed at Constantinople, and that resistance will not be offered them	6
13	" " . ..	141 Telegraphic	31,	Telegram from Turkish Plenipotentiaries at Adrianople respecting Preliminaries of Peace	6
14	Lord Odo Russell ..	Confidential Telegraphic	31,	Validity of future Treaty. Italian Government have sounded German Government as to what answer they intended to give to declaration of Her Majesty's Government respecting	7
15	Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	31,	Austrian Government has not made any declaration to French Government respecting validity of future Treaty	7
16	" " ..	Telegraphic	Feb. 1,	It is rumoured at Paris that delay in signing Armistice is owing to Russian demand for Turkish fleet	7
17	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	1,	Telegram from Porte communicated by Musurus Pasha states that Bases of Peace were to be signed yesterday. Can he confirm this?	7
18	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	1,	Porte begs that Turkish prisoners in Russia may receive sheepskin coats at Porte's expense. To communicate to Russian Government	7
19	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	1,	Austrian Government will insist on a Conference. Count Andrassy is ready to come to a confidential agreement beforehand with Her Majesty's Government respecting details of Conditions of Peace to be insisted upon ..	8

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
20	Sir H. Elliot ..	5 Telegraphic	Feb. 1, 1878	Turkish Ambassador has received telegram from Porte stating that Preliminaries were expected to be signed yesterday	8
21	Sir A. Paget ..	Secret Telegraphic	1,	Conversation with M. Depretis. Would act with England, but deems consent of Austria and France indispensable ..	8
22	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	1,	Russian Memorandum respecting Gallipoli. To communicate it to Porte	9
23	To Embassies ..	Telegraphic	1,	Musurus Pasha has communicated telegram from Porte stating Preliminaries of Peace were to be signed yesterday	9
24	To Consul Marks ..	Telegraphic	1,	Telegraph names of four frigates which have left Toulon for Levant	9
25	To Mr. Layard ..	139	1,	Transmits telegram from Porte stating that Bases of Peace were to be signed yesterday. Can he confirm this?	9
26	To Mr. Layard ..	141	1,	Russian Memorandum respecting Gallipoli. To communicate text to Porte	10
27	„ „ ..	149	1,	Communication from Musurus Pasha. Bases of Peace were to be signed yesterday ..	10
28	„ „ ..	150	1,	Russian Memorandum respecting Gallipoli. As Prince Gortchakow has given his assent, he may communicate full text to Porte ..	10
29	To Sir H. Elliot ..	79 Confidential	1,	Transmits telegram from Count Andrassy relative to attitude of Austrian Government in regard to Peace Preliminaries	10
30	„ „ ..	82 Most Conf.	1,	Attitude of England and Austria with regard to Peace Preliminaries. Her Majesty's Government have not departed from understanding come to between the two Governments	11
31	To Lord Lyons ..	76	1,	Communication from Musurus Pasha. Bases of Peace were to be signed yesterday ..	11
32	Mr. Wyndham ..	24	Jan. 19,	A Greek officer and 300 volunteers have set out with the view of promoting an insurrection in Turkey	12
33	„ „ ..	25	19,	Another band has started under Lieutenant Axelos with same purpose. Greek preparations for war	12
34	„ „ ..	27	20,	Lieutenant Axelos has been arrested ..	12
35	„ „ ..	28	21,	Lieutenant Axelos has been arrested at Chalcis. Newspapers affirm that a revolt has broken out in Thessaly	13
36	„ „ ..	30	21,	Substance of Lord Derby's telegram of this day has been given to Minister for Foreign Affairs	13
37	„ „ ..	32	21,	More troops have left for Lamia. Situation critical	13
38	„ „ ..	33	21,	Telegram from Porte requesting good offices of Her Majesty's Government. Has been communicated to M. Tricoupi. Conversation with him respecting	13
39	„ „ ..	36	22,	Ministry has resigned	14
40	„ „ ..	37	23,	Ministry has resigned, M Deligeorges taking the initiative in this step	14
41	„ „ ..	38	23,	Lieutenant Axelos has been set at liberty. Irregular bands are being recruited ..	14
42	„ „ ..	40	24,	New Government has been formed under M. Coumoundouros. Ammunition and stores continue to be sent to frontier ..	15
43	„ „ ..	41 Confidential	24,	Reasons for resignation of late Ministry. Names and posts of new members of Government	15
44	„ „ ..	43	24,	Greek troops lately at Chalcis have been sent to Lamia	16
45	„ „ ..	44	24,	Greek troops lately at Chalcis have been sent to Lamia. Ammunition and stores are being forwarded from Piræus to Chalcis ..	16
46	Consul St. John ..	8 Political	22,	Opinion on Queen's speech at Ragusa ..	16
47	„ „ ..	9 Political Confidential	24,	On receiving Queen's speech it was at once communicated to M. Duby, Secretary to Prince of Montenegro. Prince might be induced by it to modify his pretensions ..	17
48	Sir A. Buchanan ..	50 Secret	25,	Conversation with Count Andrassy respecting Conditions of Peace proposed by Russia ..	17

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
49	Sir A. Buchanan ..	52 Secret and Very Conf.	Jan. 25, 1878	Audience of Emperor. Painful impression produced on him by Conditions of Peace. Hope expressed that England would act with Austria in defending interests of Europe	18
50	Sir H. Elliot ..	57 Secret	27,	Conversation with Count Andrassy respecting state of affairs. If supported by England, he is resolved that Europe should be consulted upon any modification of the Treaties.	18
51	„ „ ..	59 Confidential	27,	Extension of Bulgaria. Attempt on part of Russia to make it appear that the Powers advocated it at Conference. Count Andrassy determined to resist it	20
52	„ „ ..	62 Secret	27,	Incloses Memorandum respecting concurrence of England and Austria with regard to modifications of European Treaties	20
53	„ „ ..	63	27,	Appeal of Roumanian Government respecting the retrocession of Bessarabia. Conversation with Prince Jon Ghika respecting ..	21
54	„ „ ..	64 Confidential	28,	Intimation of concurrence of England and Austria not forwarded to Russia yet, owing probably to the delay in bringing forward vote of credit in England	22
55	„ „ ..	66 Secret	29,	Count Andrassy much irritated at supposed repudiation by Her Majesty's Government of the understanding between Austria and England	22
56	„ „ ..	67 Confidential	27,	Count Andrassy suggests a Conference as means of obtaining European sanction to modification of Treaties	24
57	„ „ ..	68 Confidential	27,	Austria, if involved in war with Russia, not afraid of Germany interfering	24
58	„ „ ..	70	30,	Communication made to Russia by Her Majesty's Government respecting questions affecting the Treaties, similar to Austrian one. Russian assurance that they shall be referred to a Conference	24
59	„ „ ..	72 Secret	31,	Suspicion in some quarters of secret understanding between Russia and Austria. Despatch sent to Baron Langenau by Austrian Government far from friendly to Russia ..	25
60	„ „ ..	73 Secret	31,	Russian Government willing for a Conference, and that Austria should take the initiative in summoning one	25
61	Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliott	9 Confidential	30,	Letter from M. Duby. Losses and "terrible" condition of Montenegrins. Coldness of Prince of Montenegro towards Austro-Hungarian Agent	25
62	Sir A. Paget ..	85	30,	Declaration of Her Majesty's Government respecting modification of Treaties communicated to Italian Government. Conversation with M. Depretis respecting. No answer as yet returned.	26
63	Lord Lyons ..	84	31,	Austrian declaration respecting modification of Treaties not communicated by Austrian Ambassador to French Government	27
64	Lord Lyons ..	86	Feb. 1,	Rumour current at Paris that delay in signing Armistice is owing to a demand by Russia for Turkish fleet	28
65	Mr. Layard ..	142 Telegraphic	Jan. 31,	Victory of Turks at Batoum	28
66	„ „ ..	143 Telegraphic	31,	Position of Turkish fleet	28
67	„ „ ..	144 Telegraphic	31,	Telegram from Grand Vizier to Plenipotentiaries. As Protocol is to be signed to-day, orders will be given to commanders in Europe and Asia to suspend hostilities ..	28
68	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic Most Conf.	Feb. 1,	French Government will maintain reserved attitude till policy of England and Austria is made clear	29
69	Mr. Layard ..	145 Telegraphic	1,	Emperor desires durable Peace. General Ignatiew to be Russian Plenipotentiary, which causes bad effect	29
70	„ „	147 Telegraphic	1,	Italian squadron to be stationed at Salonica ..	29
71	„ „	148 Telegraphic	2,	Bases of Peace and Armistice have been signed and military operations stopped	29
72	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	2,	Greek troops have crossed frontier	29

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
73	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	Feb. 2, 1878	Reason for sending Greek troops across frontier is to protect lives of Christians. Conversation with Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs	29
74	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	2,	Ulterior understanding for safeguarding Russian interests in Straits. Prince Gortchakow has confirmed his statement respecting ..	30
75	„ „ ..	8 Telegraphic Confidential	2,	Prince Gortchakow put out by communications from Vienna. Letter from Emperor of Austria to Emperor of Russia has restored confidence. Conference accepted in principle ..	30
76	Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	2,	France will not entertain proposal for Conference unless it emanates from at least two of the Powers interested.	30
77	Consul-General White.	Telegraphic	2,	Vranja taken by the Servians	30
78	To Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic Very Conf.	2,	In the event of a Russian entry into Constantinople, would Italy be prepared to act with England?	30
79	To Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	2,	To sound the French Government in a similar sense to that in which Sir A. Paget has been instructed to speak to Italian Government ..	31
80	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	2,	Conference should be proposed without delay. Proposition should come from Austrian Government. Her Majesty's Government wish to come to an agreement with Austria as to details of Peace	31
81	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	2,	Prince Gortchakow's statement that Russia has no objection to a Conference. Suggest to Count Andrassy that it should be communicated to Italian and French Governments ..	31
82	„ „ ..	84 Very Conf.	2,	Conference should be proposed without delay. Proposition for should come from Austrian Government. Her Majesty's Government are willing to come to an agreement with Austria respecting details of Peace ..	31
83	„ „ ..	86 Very Conf.	2,	Prince Gortchakow's statement that "Russia has no objection to a Conference." Suggest to Count Andrassy that it should be communicated to French and Italian Governments .	32
84	To Lord Lyons ..	81	2,	Sound French Government in a similar sense to that which Sir A. Paget has been instructed to speak to the Italian Government	32
85	To Sir A. Paget ..	60A	2,	In the event of a Russian entry into Constantinople, would Italy act with England? ..	32
86	To M. Ivancho Tougoroff	..	2,	Sufferings of Protestants in Bulgaria at the hands of the Greek Church. Acknowledges receipt of Memorandum respecting ..	33
87	Mr. Layard ..	81	Jan. 17,	Should not precautions be taken to prevent Russians making sudden advance on Dardanelles and Bulair lines?	33
88	„ „ ..	82 Secret	17,	Conversation with Count Zichy. Expediency of having English ships of war in Golden Horn	33
89	„ „ ..	83	18,	Server and Namyk Pashas instructed not to accept any terms contrary to Treaty of Paris without reference to Porte	34
90	„ „ ..	84	18,	Amount of Turkish forces for defence of Constantinople	34
91	„ „ ..	85	18,	Mr. Blunt has been instructed to remain at Adrianople	34
92	„ „ ..	86	19,	Preparations of Greeks to cross Turkish frontier. Turkish Ministers request that Her Majesty's Government may use their good offices to prevent this aggression	35
93	„ „ ..	87	19,	Despatch from Vice-Consul Brophy. Excesses committed by Circassians at Bourgas ..	35
94	„ „ ..	88 Secret	19,	Prince Gortchakow's Memorandum. Points out that no mention is made in it of Dardanelles	36
95	„ „ ..	89 Secret	19,	Turkish Ministers urgently beg that English fleet should be ordered to Macri or Besika Bay	37
96	„ „ ..	91	20,	Report that Officer has been sent to Turkish Plenipotentiaries to instruct them to accept any terms that Russia may demand ..	37
97	„ „ ..	92	21,	Flight of Mussulman population. Sufferings of refugees. Despatch from Colonel Allix ..	37

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
98	Mr. Layard ..	95	21, 1878	Asks for instructions in the event of a Russian occupation of Gallipoli and the Dardanelles .	41
99	„ „ ..	96	21,	Turkish Plenipotentiaries have telegraphed, but give no information respecting negotiations. Suleiman Pasha's movements ..	41
100	„ „ ..	97	21,	Gallipoli. Russian advance. Porte wishes for an answer respecting the fleet	42
101	„ „ ..	98	21,	Gallipoli. Conversation with M. de Mouy .	42
102	„ „ ..	99	22,	Liability of Christians to military service ..	43
103	„ „ ..	100	22,	Affairs at Adrianople. Panic among population. Address to Djemil Pasha	43
104	„ „ ..	101	22,	Maintenance of order in Constantinople. Official communication to Turkish newspapers ..	46
105	„ „ ..	106	23,	Attack on British Consular Agent at Rethymo. Has agreed with Count Zichy not to insist on further reparation	47
106	„ „ .	107	23,	Excesses of irregulars at Bourgas. Is sending "Torch" there with Mr. Brophy ..	47
107	„ „ ..	108	23,	Conveyance of fugitives from Bourgas. Despatch from Commander of "Torch" ..	49
108	„ „ ..	109	23,	Proceedings in Turkish Chambers, with summary by Mr. Jocelyn	50
109	„ „ ..	111	23,	Adrianople. Djemil Pasha and Consul Blunt's services. Letter from Mr. Black ..	52
110	„ „ ..	112	23,	Gallipoli. Porte's reply respecting Russian assurance. Has asked for instructions. ..	52
111	Consul Sandwith ..	7	21,	Crete. Mussulman migration into towns instigated by certain influential Mussulmans ..	53
112	Sir A. Paget ..	67 Confidential	25,	Conference. Italian views as to Austrian claims in Bosnia and Herzegovina	53
113	„ „ ..	79	29,	Extension of Bulgaria. Navigation of the Straits. M. Depretis' views	54
114	Lord Lyons ..	90	Feb. 2,	Congress. M. Waddington says France could not entertain proposal unless made by two of the three Powers directly interested ..	54
115	„ „ ..	91 Very Conf.	2,	Congress. M. Waddington opposed to. His views relative to attitude of Germany, Russia, and Austria	55
116	Musurus Pasha ..	..	3,	Signature of Bases of Peace and Armistice ..	55
117	Mr. Layard ..	146 Telegraphic	1,	Bases of Peace. Textual copy obtained most secretly	56
118	„ „ ..	149 Telegraphic	2,	Body of Greeks have crossed frontier. From Consul at Salonica	56
119	„ „ ..	150 Telegraphic	2,	Russians at Dédéagatch and Rodosto ..	56
120	„ „ ..	151 Telegraphic	3,	What are seven points by which Austria stands?	57
121	Mr. Ricketts ..	Telegraphic	3,	Russian movements	57
122	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	3,	M. Depretis' reply to Her Majesty's Government. He will agree to any arrangement they think acceptable on question of Straits .	57
123	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	3,.	To repeat names of fortresses in No. 117 ..	57
124	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	3,	Greek Government might recall troops if Powers assure security of neighbouring provinces. Has urged Greeks to avoid collision with Turkish troops	58
125	Mr. Layard ..	116	Jan. 24,	State of Constantinople. M. Mariniitsch's report. Mr. Sandison's conversation with Grand Vizier	58
126	„ „ ..	118	25,	Affairs in Thessaly. Despatches from Mr. Longworth	59
127	Colonel Mansfield ..	12 Confidential	23,	Bessarabia. Pressure put on Roumania for cession of. Roumanian railway shares, respecting rise in price of	63
128	Lord A. Loftus ..	85	24,	Validity of a separate Treaty. Presumes Prince Gortchakow did not think communication of Her Majesty's Government required an answer	63
129	„ „ ..	87	24,	Russian advance on Gallipoli and Constantinople. Conditions of Peace kept secret ..	64
130	„ „ ..	89	24,	General Ignatiew has left to join Grand Duke Nicholas	64
131	„ „ ..	103	27,	Gallipoli, Russian designs on. Her Majesty's Government should occupy Dardanelles ..	64
132	„ „ ..	107 Confidential	28	Validity of a separate Treaty. Austrian communication. Emperor of Russia's answer has removed distrust between the two Governments	65

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
133	Lord A. Loftus ..	116	Jan. 30, 1878	No news from Turkish Plenipotentiaries. Prince Gortchakow cannot explain ..	65
134	„ „ ..	118	30,	Ulterior understanding respecting the Straits. Prince Gortchakow would have no objection to suppress the Article	66
135	„ „ ..	120	30,	Validity of Treaties. Questions bearing upon European interests will be concerted with the Powers	66
136	„ „ ..	124 Confidential	30,	Conditions of Peace. Prince Gortchakow has no news from Grand Duke Nicholas ..	66
137	Lord Odo Russell ..	57	27,	Delay in negotiations	67
138	„ „ ..	59	28,	Russians reported to be advancing .. .	67
139	„ „ ..	66	30,	Validity of Treaties. Note to Herr Von Bülow	67
140	„ „ ..	68 Confidential	31,	Validity of Treaties. Italian Government has sounded German Government as to answer ..	68
141	„ „ ..	69 Confidential	31,	Conference. The three Chancellors have agreed on Vienna	68
142	Mr. Scott	5 Confidential	31,	Preliminaries of Peace said to have been accepted by the Porte	68
143	Consul Sanderson ..	9	28,	Russian military movements	69
144	Vice-Consul Bonham .	4	29,	Military stores passing; also reinforcements and a number of sailors	69
145	Sir C. Sebright ..	6	31,	Warlike preparations at Santa Maura ..	69
145*	M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius	Telegraphic	Feb. 2,	Greek Government has resolved to occupy Greek provinces of Turkey	70*
146	Admiralty	..	2,	Italian squadron has sailed from Naples. Destination supposed to be Salonica	71
147	Count Andrassy ..	Telegraphic	3,	Proposes that a Conference should be held at Vienna	71
148	Sir H. Elliot ..	7 Telegraphic	3,	Telegrams respecting Conference have been communicated to Count Andrassy ..	72
49	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	3,	Protecting Powers might induce Greece to withdraw troops	72
150	Mr. Layard ..	152 Telegraphic	3,	Italian ironclads at Salonica	72
151	„ „ ..	153 Telegraphic	3,	Turks sending ships and troops to Piræus ..	72
152	„ „ ..	154 Telegraphic	3,	Three hundred Greek insurgents have crossed frontier near Carditza	72
153	„ „ ..	155 Telegraphic	3,	Turkey and Greece. There may still be time to prevent war	73
154	„ „ ..	156 Telegraphic	3,	Armistice. No term fixed for duration. Turks will be obliged to accept any conditions ..	73
155	Lord A. Loftus ..	9 Telegraphic	4,	Armistice and Bases of Peace signed. From Grand Duke Nicholas	73
156	„ „ ..	10 Telegraphic	4,	General Strukow advancing on Rodosto. From Grand Duke Nicholas	73
157	Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	4,	Conference. French Government have no objection to Vienna	74
158	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	4,	Russian advance. As to sending French ships to Constantinople	74
159	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	4,	Validity of Treaties. Italian answer ..	74
160	Lord Odo Russell ..	Telegraphic	4,	Conference at Vienna. Germany will accept ..	74
161	Mr. White	Telegraphic	4,	Armistice. Prince Milan has ordered cessation of hostilities	74
162	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	4,	Austrian Emperor wishes for thorough understanding with England	75
163	Colonel Mansfield ..	Telegraphic	4,	Terms of Armistice. Roumanians are occupying Widdin and Belgradzik .. .	75
164	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	[4,	Seven points put forward by Austria. Refers him to Count Andrassy's despatch of July 26, 1877	75
165	To Her Majesty's Embassies	Telegraphic	4,	Conference at Vienna. Has accepted Austrian proposal	75
166	To Mr. Layard ..	145	4,	Seven points of Austria. Extends No. 164 ..	76
167	To Sir H. Elliot ..	88	4,	Conference. Extends No. 165	76
168	Mr. Wyndham ..	48	Jan. 26,	M. Coumoundouros' speech, urging prudence as more necessary than enthusiasm	76
169	„ „ ..	50	25,	Armistice. Effect upon Greeks	78
170	Lord Lyons ..	97	Feb. 4,	Cession of Bessarabia. Interview with Prince Ghika	78
171	Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	3,	Conference. Turkey should be represented ..	79
172	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	4,	Asks for instructions, if Greece withdraws troops and appeals for protection of population of Thessaly	79
173	Consul Mark ..	Telegraphic	4,	French ships leaving for the Levant . ..	79

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
174	Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	Feb. 5, 1878	French Government has remonstrated with Greece	79
175	Consul-General White	Telegraphic	5,	Cession of Widdin to Roumania. Alarm of Servian Government	80
176	Lord A. Loftus ..	11 Telegraphic	5,	Assassination of General Trepow	80
177	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	5,	Orders given to Greek troops not to advance further	80
178	Lord A. Loftus ..	12 Telegraphic	5,	Armistice. Emperor's speech, saying that much more remains to be done	80
179	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	5,	Is Black Sea blockade raised?	80
180	To Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	5,	To join in French remonstrance. Her Majesty's Government will try and secure advantages for Greeks in Turkish provinces	80
181	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	5,	Conference at Vienna. France and Italy have accepted	81
182	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	5,	Armistice and Conference. M. Depretis' view of situation	81
183	To Lord Lyons ..	..	5,	French remonstrance with Greece. Conversation with M. d'Harcourt	81
184	To Sir H. Elliot ..	90	5,	Conference. Extends No. 181	82
185	„ „ ..	91	5,	Cession of Bessarabia. Approves language to Prince Ghika	82
186	To Mr. Layard ..	152	5,	Black Sea blockade. Extends No. 179 ..	82
187	To Mr. Wyndham ..	10	5,	To join in French remonstrance. Extends No. 180	82
188	To Consul-General Eldridge	1	5,	Bulgarian prisoners. Approves steps for relief of	83
189	M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius	Telegraphic	5,	Will recall troops if security of Greek provinces is guaranteed	83
190	Vice-Consul Biliotti ..	12	Jan. 14,	Russian advance. Excitement at Trebizond ..	83
191	„ „ ..	13	14,	Enrolment of troops. Feeling of Christians ..	83
192	Consul-General Eldridge	7	19,	Disorders at Tripoli and Hamah	84
193	Consul Sandwith ..	8	26,	Increase of excitement in Crete. Much depends on attitude of Greece	87
194	„ „ ..	9	27,	Christian Delegates and Costaki Pasha. Arrangements for meeting	87
195	„ „ ..	10	29,	Christian Committee have adopted a new programme in excess of former demands ..	88
196	Lord A. Loftus ..	128	Feb. 1,	Russian engagement not to occupy Gallipoli may be communicated to the Porte ..	89
197	Colonel Siborne .	..	4,	Danube Commission. M. Herbette would like Her Majesty's Government to suggest to French Government that he and Colonel Siborne should be sent to the Conference as "Avocats Consultants" ..	90
198	Lord Lyons ..	95	4,	Austrian Government has proposed a Conference at Vienna, to which French Government have agreed	90
199	„ „ ..	96	4,	M. Waddington thinks that if Russians really go to Constantinople some French ships of war should be sent there	90
200	„ „ ..	100	4,	Greece and Turkey. French Government have addressed strongest representations to Greek Government to withdraw troops from Ottoman territory	91
201	„ „ ..	102	5,	Prince Gortchakow objects to Vienna for the Conference, and suggests some smaller place	91
202	„ „ ..	103 Very Conf.	5,	M. Waddington thinks it would be well to humour Prince Gortchakow as to the Conference	92
203	„ „ ..	104	5,	French Government consider it will be necessary to send a few large ships of war to Constantinople if Russians attempt to enter .	92
204	Count Beust ..	..	5,	Proposal for and invitation to a Conference at Vienna	92
205	Sir H. Elliot ..	9 Telegraphic	5,	Russia seems inclined to object to Vienna for the Conference. Count Andrassy would be likely to agree to some smaller place ..	93
206	„ „ ..	10 Telegraphic	5,	Baron Calice considers that the communications with Italian Government have latterly been more satisfactory	93
207	„ „ ..	11 Telegraphic	5,	Roumania has refused to give up Bessarabian Moldavia	93
208	Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	5,	Conference. Substance of Nos. 201 and 202 .	94

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
209	Mr. Layard ..	166 Telegraphic	Feb. 5, 1878	Russians are pushing on towards Constantinople in spite of the Armistice	94
210	„ „ ..	167 Telegraphic	5,	Telegraph with Europe cut off except through Bombay	94
211	„ „ ..	168 Telegraphic	6,	Russians have insisted on the Turks abandoning Tchekmedjé lines	94
212	Consul-General White	Telegraphic	6,	Considerable Russian force in Roumania. Continued preparations in Poland ..	95
213	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	6,	To obtain information as to Slav and Greek populations in proposed Bulgaria for the Conference	95
214	Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	6,	French Government has intimated that if Greek troops are withdrawn it will try to prevent reprisals	95
215	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	6,	Count Andrassy holds most strongly to Vienna as the seat of the Conference	95
216	Sir H. Elliot ..	Very Conf. 12 Telegraphic	6,	Russian answer to the invitation to the Conference expected in about two days ..	95
217	To Her Majesty's Ambassadors	Telegraphic	6,	Grave state of affairs at Constantinople. Repeats No. 210	96
218	To Sir A. Paget ..	65	6,	Invalidity of Russo-Turkish Treaty unless formally agreed to by Powers. Approves language	96
219	To Sir H. Elliot ..	92a	6,	Grave state of affairs at Constantinople. Information to be communicated to Count Andrassy	96
220	„ „ .	95 Most Conf.	6,	Conference. Conversation with Count Beust as to representation of Turkey and attitude of other Powers	97
221	To Lord A. Loftus ..	114	6,	Grave state of affairs at Constantinople. Is the report of Russian advance correct? ..	97
222	To Mr. Layard ..	154	6,	Conference. Extends No. 213	97
223	To Lord Lyons and Sir A. Paget	91	6,	Grave state of affairs at Constantinople. To inform Government	98
224	To Mr. Wyndham ..	12	6,	Her Majesty's Government will do all they can to secure the inhabitants of the Greek provinces of Turkey from lawless violence ..	98
225	To Musurus Pasha and Count Schouvaloff	..	6,	Requests his Excellency to apply for authority to communicate the full text of the Bases of Peace to Her Majesty's Government ..	98
226	To M. Gennadius ..	..	6,	Greek occupation of Greek provinces of Turkey. Acknowledges his note of February 3	99
227	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	6,	Conference. Substance of No. 220 ..	99
228	To Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	6,	Greece. Substance of No. 224 ..	99
229	Mr. Layard ..	120	Jan. 24,	Porte has made a direct appeal to the Emperor to modify conditions for Bulgaria ..	99
230	„ „ ..	121	24,	Bases of Peace. Instructions will be sent to Plenipotentiaries to sign. Heads of them ..	100
231	„ „ ..	122	25,	British fleet. Has obtained Firman from Porte	100
232	„ „ ..	123	25,	Gallipoli. Russians are still advancing upon the town	101
233	„ „ ..	124	26,	Gallipoli. Safvet Pasha points out that Russians have given no assurance as to lines of Bulair. Number of Turkish troops in the Peninsula	101
234	„ „ ..	125	25,	British fleet. Steps taken to stop, in consequence of counter orders	102
235	„ „ ..	126	25,	Treaty of Paris. Russia refuses to acknowledge it. Reported secret arrangement for a meeting between the Sultan and the Emperor	102
236	„ „ ..	127	26,	Terms of Peace. Negotiations respecting. Observations respecting attitude of England	102
237	„ „ ..	128	26,	Only zaptiehs, regular troops, and militia are to be allowed to carry arms in Constantinople	104
238	„ „ ..	129	27,	Austrian Government has urged Porte to communicate Russian conditions. No information yet received from Turkish Plenipotentiaries as to signature	104
239	„ „ ..	130	28,	Remarks upon the Bases of Peace	105
240	„ „ ..	131	29,	Porte denies delay or procrastination on the part of the Turkish Plenipotentiaries ..	111
241	„ „ ..	132	29,	Entry of British fleet into the Dardanelles. Despatch from Vice-Consul Maling ..	112
241*	„ „ ..	133 Confidential	29,	Opinion of the Kashgar Envoy on the state of affairs	113
242	„ „ ..	134	29,	Refugees. Transmits despatches respecting ..	113

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
243	Mr. Layard ..	136	Jan. 29, 1878	Reported Circassian excesses at Rodosto. Correspondence respecting	116
244	„ „ ..	137	29,	State of affairs at Kustendjie. Despatch from Vice-Consul Sankey respecting	117
245	„ „ ..	138	29,	Porte cannot answer for the consequences if the Russians march upon the capital ..	118
246	„ „ ..	143	30,	Gallipoli. Despatch from Vice-Consul giving diary of events	118
247	„ „ ..	144	30,	Supposed conspiracy against the Sultan and some of his Ministers. State of feeling in Constantinople	122
248	„ „ ..	148	30,	Proceedings in the Ottoman Chamber of Deputies	122
249	Lord A. Loftus ..	132	Feb. 2,	Emperor's replies to the Queen and the Sultan have been misrepresented by the Press, Prince Gortchakow says	125
250	Mr. Wyndham ..	47	Jan. 25,	Declaration as to the policy of the Greek Government. May he hold stronger language to prevent Greeks from embarking in hostilities?	126
251	„ „ ..	49 Confidential	26,	Serious state of affairs caused him to ask whether he should hold stronger language ..	126
252	„ „ ..	52	27,	Report of signature of Peace has given a severe blow to the aspirations of the Greeks	126
253	„ „ ..	54	28,	Demonstrations in favour of war	127
254	„ „ ..	55	28,	Demonstrations. Further respecting ..	127
255	„ „ ..	57 Confidential	28,	News of difficulties in conclusion of Peace may incite Greek Government to war ..	128
256	„ „ ..	58 Confidential	28,	Photiades Bey states that it was owing to a telegram from Berlin that the King decided upon starting for Lamia	128
257	„ „ ..	60	30,	Bands of volunteers are said to be continually leaving for Thessaly	128
258	„ „ ..	61	31,	Bands of volunteers continually leaving Greece for Thessaly	128
259	„ „ .	62	30,	Anti-war articles in the "Journal des Débats," the organ of M. Deligeorges	129
260	Lord Lyons ..	112	Feb. 6,	Greece. Has informed M. Waddington that Mr. Wyndham is to join in French representations	130
261	„ „ ..	113 Very Conf.	6,	Conference. M. Waddington more convinced that it would be well to gratify Prince Gortchakow's wish to preside	130
262	„ „ ..	114	6,	Has told M. Catargi that he would be received in England in the same way as Prince Jon Ghika	131
263	„ „ ..	115 Confidential	6,	Retrocession of Moldavian Bessarabia. Bitter feeling in Roumania	131
264	Admiralty	..	6,	British Fleet. Proceedings at entrance to Dardanelles, and return to Besika Bay ..	132
265	Mr. Layard ..	148 Telegraphic	4,	Names of European fortresses in telegram of February 1 (see No. 112)	133
266	„ „ ..	159 Telegraphic	4,	Raising of Black Sea blockade. Armistice Convention provides for	133
267	„ „ ..	158 Telegraphic	4,	Presumes that Austrian seven points are those mentioned in Secret and Confidential print .	133
268	„ „ ..	163 Telegraphic	4,	Change of Ministry in Turkey has given satisfaction	134
269	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic Confidential	6,	Conference. Correspondence between Austria and Russia. Occupation of Bulgaria said to be for two years	134
270	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	6,	Orders given for withdrawal of Greek troops ..	134
271	Sir H. Elliot ..	13 Telegraphic	7,	No news from Constantinople for three days ..	134
272	Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	7,	No news from Constantinople for three days ..	134
273	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	7,	Moldavian Bessarabia. France will leave initiative as to Danube, &c., to Austria ..	135
274	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	7,	Conference. M. Waddington thinks that everything should be done to facilitate the attendance of Prince Gortchakow	135
275	„ „ ..	Telegraphic Confidential	7,	New French Ambassador is starting for Constantinople. He is to take up same ground as England with regard to the Straits ..	135
276	Lord Odo Russell ..	Telegraphic	7,	Last telegram from Constantinople was dated the 4th instant	135
277	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	7,	Conference. German Government have accepted Vienna, but will not object to any other town	135

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
278	To Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	Feb. 7, 1878	British fleet is to proceed to Constantinople. Will French Government give similar orders?	136
279	To Sir H. Elliott ..	Telegraphic	7,	Russian advance. Do Austrian Government intend to take any steps? ..	136
280	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	7,	Was occupation of Tchataldja lines included in the Armistice?	136
281	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	7,	Constantinople. To remind Russian Government of Emperor's assurance to Colonel Wellesley	136
282	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	7,	Turkish Danube Flotilla. Is there any truth in report of surrender of	137
283	To Her Majesty's Ambassadors	Telegraphic	7,	Russian denial of advance on Constantinople..	137
284	To Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	7,	Withdrawal of Greek troops. Satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government	137
285	Acting-Consul Freeman	Telegraphic	7,	Reported Servian advance in spite of the Armistice	137
286	Acting-Consul Barker	Telegraphic	7,	Movements of ships of war	137
287	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield	Telegraphic	7,	Roumania will strenuously resist cession of Moldavian Bessarabia	137
287a	Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	7,	Cruel treatment of English doctors by Russians	138
288	To Mr. Layard ..	157	7,	To ascertain whether occupation of Tchataldja was included in the terms of the Armistice ..	138
289	„ „ ..	158	7,	Murder of three Bulgarian prisoners at Alexandretta. To bring to notice of Porte ..	138
290	„ „ ..	159	7,	Apprehension of disturbances at Constantinople. Approves steps taken to call attention of Turkish authorities	138
291	„ „ ..	176	7,	Disorders at Bourgas. Approves instructions to Vice-Consul Brophy and Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Torch"	138
292	„ „ ..	177	7,	Attack on M. Trifilli at Rethymo. Approves his having concurred in views of Count Zichy	139
293	„ „ ..	180	7,	Russian assurance respecting advance on Constantinople. Does he still confirm report respecting Tchataldja?	139
294	To Lord A. Loftus ..	116	7,	Russian advance on Constantinople. To remind Russian Government of assurance given to Colonel Wellesley	139
295	To Lord Lyons ..	90	7,	British fleet. Her Majesty's Government intend to send ships to Constantinople. Will French Government give similar orders? ..	139
296	To Mr. Wyndham ..	14	7,	Withdrawal of Greek troops. Satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government	140
297	Count Schouvaloff ..	Memo.	7,	Denial of Russian advance on Constantinople.	140
298	To Count Beust ..	..	7,	Conference. Her Majesty's Government accepts invitation to Conference at Vienna...	140
		97	7,	Russian advance on Constantinople. Do Austrian Government intend to take any steps?	140
299	To Sir H. Elliot ..	12	Jan. 24,	Progress of Montenegrin advance towards Scutari. Despatch to Constantinople ..	141
300	Consul Kirby Green ..	13	27,	Mirdite proceedings. Bib Doda's terms. The proposed principality	141
301	„ „ ..	137	Feb. 3,	The "Golos" on Peace and the formation of more divisions of troops	143
302	Lord A. Loftus ..	7 Confidential	4,	Greek preparations at Santa Maura. Report from Cerigo. Respective forces on and near the frontier	144
303	Sir C. Scbright ..	Telegraphic	7,	Orders given for the recall of Greek troops. Hopes for consideration of Greek question at the Congress	147
304	M. Delyannl to M. Gennadius	Telegraphic ..	8, 8,	About 90,000 Russians fit for duty at Tiflis ..	147
305	Consul Ricketts ..			Copies of the Protocols of Bases of Peace and Armistice communicated to Mr. Layard yesterday	147
306	Musurus Pasha ..	161 Telegraphic	4,	Title of Grand Vizier abolished. Ahmed Vefyk President of Council and Minister of Interior	148
307	Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	7,	French Foreign Minister cannot reply respecting sending ironclads to Constantinople till he has seen the Marshal	148
308	Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	7,	France will telegraph for Firman to-night, and for report on actual state of things ..	148
309	„ „ ..	14 Telegraphic	7,	Russians not advanced since signature of the Armistice, of which terms are not known ..	148
310	Lord A. Loftus ..				

No.	Name.	No	Date.	Subject.	Page
311	Lord A. Loftus ..	15 Telegraphic	Feb. 7, 1878	Greek appeal to Russia, and reply	149
312	„ „ ..	16 Telegraphic	7,	War news. Telegram from Grand Duke Nicholas	149
313	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	7,	No confirmation of Russian advance on Constantinople	149
314	Mr. Layard ..	164 Telegraphic	4,	In spite of Armistice Russians are at Sharkeui and near Tchataldja. No Proclamation respecting Mussulmans issued ..	149
315	„ „ ..	165 Secret Telegraphic	5,	Great part of Turkish force from Gallipoli to be removed for service against Greece ..	149
316	„ „ ..	170 Telegraphic	6,	Greece called on to withdraw troops at once ..	150
317	„ „ ..	173 Telegraphic	7,	Articles of Armistice. Commenced on 21st ultimo. Removal of guns from Constantinople lines	150 150
318	„ „ ..	174 Telegraphic	7,	Five Italian ironclads at Salonica	150
319	Lord A. Loftus ..	17 Telegraphic	8,	Military intelligence from General Zimmerman	
320	„ „ ..	18 Telegraphic	8,	Official text of Preliminaries signed at Adrianople January 31. From "Journal de St. Pétersbourg"	151
321	„ „ ..	19 Confidential Telegraphic	8,	Conference. Prince Gortchakow's objections to Vienna will reach M. de Novikow to-morrow	151
322	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	8,	Admiral instructed to proceed to Constantinople. To procure Firman if wanted. should communicate with Admiral ..	152
323	To Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	8,	To inform French Government of above. Hope they will give similar orders.. ..	152
324	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	8,	Orders to fleet. To inform Russian Government and explain object of.	152
325	To Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	8,	Orders to fleet. To inform and explain object. To invite Italy to give similar orders ..	152
326	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	8,	Will torpedoes be removed and wheat export allowed during Armistice?	152
327	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	8,	Roumania. Retrocession of Bessarabia demanded by Russia to Kilia Branch. Roumanian Agent asks Lord Lyons if England would aid her now	153
328	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	8,	May British vessels trade in Black Sea during Armistice?	153 153
329	To Her Majesty's Embassies	Telegraphic	8,	France has asked for Firman for two ships ..	153
330	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	8,	Italy applies for ditto	153
331	To Her Majesty's Embassies	Telegraphic	8,	Ditto. Informing	
332	To Sir H. Elliot ..	99	8,	Is surrender of Turkish flotilla and steamers on Danube included in stipulations respecting river forts?	154
333	„ „ ..	101	8,	Russian demand respecting Bessarabia. Telegram from the Roumanian Government ..	154
334	„ „ ..	103	8,	Fleet to go to Constantinople. Extends telegram	154
335	To Lord A. Loftus ..	120	8,	Ditto. Extends No. 324..	154
336	„ „ ..	127	8,	Bases of Peace. Count Schouvaloff says full text is being forwarded to him for communication	155
337	To Mr. Wyndham ..	15	8,	Impending attack of Greece. Approves language in his No. 33	155
338	To Lord Lyons ..	99	8,	Orders to fleet. Extends No. 323	155
339	„ „ ..	108	8,	Italy has applied for Firman for two ships. Extends No. 331	155
340	To Mr. Layard ..	182	8,	Orders to fleet. Extends No. 322	156
341	To Sir A. Paget ..	77	8,	France has applied for Firman for two ships. Extends No. 329	156
342	To Admiralty ..	Confidential	8,	Detachment of fleet to go to Constantinople. To give orders for. Ambassador instructed.	156
343	„ „ ..	Confidential	8,	France has asked for Firman for two ships. Italy will probably do so	156
344	Lord Lyons ..	120	7,	Has communicated substance of Mr. Layard's telegram of 5th, respecting Russian advance. No similar intelligence received by French Government	157

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
345	Lord Lyons ..	121 Confidential	Feb. 7, 1878	M. Fournier, new French Ambassador at the Porte, is to place himself on same footing as England respecting Bosphorus and Dardanelles. Will support *status quo* as in Treaty of London of March 7, 1871	157
346	„ „ ..	122	7,	Russian demand for retrocession of Bessarabia. France leaves the initiative to Austria respecting the Danube	158
347	„ „ ..	123 Very Conf.	7,	Conference. M. Waddington anxious that Prince Gortchakow should attend ..	158
348	„ „ ..	126	7,	Respecting French ships going to Constantinople. Extends Nos. 308 and 309	158
349	„ „ ..	127 Confidential	8,	Greek question. France asks respecting policy to be pursued at Conference	159
350	Lord A. Loftus ..	20 Telegraphic	8,	Terms of Armistice. Official telegram in papers	160
351	Sir H. Elliot ..	14 Telegraphic	8,	Turkish flotilla. See No. 332. Neither Austrian Government nor Turkish Ambassador have heard it is to be given up with the forts	160
352	Mr. Stanley ..	Telegraphic	8,	Terms of Armistice, with districts to be held by Russia. Received on 2nd instant ..	160
353	Mr. Layard ..	162 Telegraphic	8,	May Sir A. Kemball come to Constantinople ?	160
354	„ „ ..	175 Telegraphic	8,	Servians keep advancing near Sjenica ..	160
355	„ „ ..	176 Telegraphic	8,	Russians occupy Tchataldja. Insist on troops leaving the lines. Terms of Armistice sent yesterday	160
356	„ „ ..	177 Telegraphic	8,	On assurance by a Great Power of recall of Greek troops, Porte will not take hostile measures	161
357	Mr. Stanley ..	Telegraphic	9,	Export of grain from South Russian ports. Prohibition withdrawn	161
358	Mr. Layard ..	178 Telegraphic	8,	Information respecting populations in Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia. Mr. Longworth and Colonel Synge to report	161
359	„ „ ..	179 Telegraphic	9,	Turkish flotilla in Danube to be in care of Russia till Peace is signed	161
360	„ „ ..	180 Secret Telegraphic	9,	Secret understanding between Khedive and Russia. Calls attention to rumour of ..	161
361	„ „ ..	181 Confidential Telegraphic	9,	Plenipotentiaries returned. Conversation with Server Pasha	162
362	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	9,	Count Corti reports Constantinople quiet. Russians as not advancing	162
363	Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	9,	On hearing Firman is granted, two French ships will go to Constantinople ..	162
364	Sir A. Paget ..	Very Conf. Telegraphic	9,	M. Depretis' opinion on some of the conditions of the Armistice	162
365	Sir H. Elliot ..	15 Telegraphic	9,	Fleet going to Constantinople. Communicated to Count Andrassy. Similar orders will probably be given by Austria	163
366	„ „ ..	16 Telegraphic	9,	Conference. Count Andrassy's opinion not known. He would probably not insist on Vienna	163
367	Lord A. Loftus ..	21 Telegraphic	9,	Has addressed note respecting Russian advance and treatment of doctors	163
368	„ „ ..	22 Telegraphic	9,	Russian advance on Constantinople. Reply of Prince Gortchakow to note of yesterday ..	164
369	„ „ ..	23 Telegraphic	9,	Treatment of English doctors. Reply of Prince Gortchakow to note of yesterday	164
370	To Mr. White ..	Telegraphic	9,	Servian advance near Sjenica. Any information ?	164
371	To Admiralty ..	..	9,	Italy has applied for Firman for two ships to pass the Dardanelles	164
372	„ „ ..	Confidential	9,	French ships. Substance of No. 363 ..	164
373	Vice-Consul Biliotti ..	19	Jan. 22,	Meeting of Mussulman notabilities at Trebizond. Discussion of affairs. Resolution to resist cession of territory in Anatolia .	165
374	„ „ ..	20	22,	Incident which took place at Kars after its fall. Violence of Russians. Reports respecting	165
375	Sir A. Paget ..	92 Secret	Feb. 1,	Conversation with M. Depretis respecting future policy of Italy	167

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
376	Sir A. Paget ..	94 Very Conf.	Feb. 3, 1878	Conversation with M. Depretis. Principal points on which he thinks an understanding necessary	169
377	„ „ ..	98	4,	Respecting validity of Treaties. Italy thinks Russian declarations set aside necessity for Italy to change her attitude	171
378	„ „ ..	100 Confidential	4,	Validity of any Treaty between Russia and Turkey. Italy would be chiefly guided by what was said at Berlin	171
379	„ „ ..	101	4,	Greeks resolve to march into Turkish provinces. No reply made to communication of Greek Chargé d'Affaires	172
380	„ „ ..	106	5,	Conference at Vienna. Accepted by Italy ..	172
381	„ „ ..	107 Very Conf.	5,	Conversation with M. Depretis chiefly respecting Austria and Italy	173
382	„ „ ..	108	5,	Porte has ordered troops to Thessaly and Candia	174
383	„ „ ..	111	7,	Respecting Russian advance and occupation of Constantinople. If true, M. Depretis thinks the Powers should agree on what conduct to pursue	174
384	Lord Lyons ..	135	9,	Orders to fleet. Conversation with M. Waddington. Extends telegram	174
385	Admiralty .. „	..	9,	Orders sent to Admiral Hornby to proceed to Constantinople	175
386	„	..	10,	Telegram from Admiral Hornby. Governor of Dardanelles protests against ships passing. Has anchored off entrance	175
387	„	..	10,	Telegram from Admiral Hornby. Ships not allowed to pass. Has returned to Besika Bay. Has not heard from Ambassador. Asks instructions	176
388	Mr. Layard ..	182 Telegraphic	9,	If Greece, through England or France, promises to recall troops, Porte will not take hostile measures	176
389	„ „ ..	183 Telegraphic	9,	Gallipoli. 22,000 troops in the lines	177
390	„ „ .	184 Telegraphic	9,	Greek troops have occupied plains of Ferditscha	177
391	„ „ ..	185 Telegraphic Most Secret	9,	Conversation between Server Pasha and Grand Duke Nicholas. Russo-Turkish Treaty. Threatening tone of Grand Duke ..	177
392	„ „ ..	186 Telegraphic	9,	Orders to fleet received this afternoon. Porte protests, and throws responsibility on England	177
393	„ „ ..	187 Telegraphic	10,	Fleet. Porte will not grant Firman. Admiral at entrance of Dardanelles. What should he do?	178
394	„ „ ..	188 Telegraphic	10,	Black Sea blockade ceases during Armistice	178
395	„ „ ..	189 Telegraphic	10,	Small steamer supposed to be laying torpedoes in Gulf of Sazos	178
396	„ „ ..	190 Telegraphic Secret	10,	Suspicion that Russia wants Turkish fleet to embark troops for Odessa and elsewhere ..	178
396*	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	10,	Repeats orders to fleet. No receipt of from him. Movements of Admiral	179
397	„ „ ..	193	10,	Extends above	179
398	Consul Kirby Green..	14	Jan. 27,	Mussulman petition for North Albania to be placed under Italian protection	179
399	Acting Consul Barker.	4	30,	Advance of Servians. Preparations at Prevesa, and report on sick and wounded and refugees. Despatches to Constantinople.	180
400	„ „ ..	5	31,	Robberies near Monastir	182
401	Mr. Layard . ..	150	31,	Alarm caused by reported execution of Polish prisoners by Russians. Petition which he has received	182
402	Sir H. Elliot ..	77 Secret	31,	Russian entry into Constantinople. Count Andrassy says he will make a communication to St. Petersburgh on the subject, but England must go ahead of him in this matter ..	183
403	„ „ ..	81	Feb. 4,	Has presented his credentials. Emperor's language	184
404	„ „ ..	84 A Confidential	5,	Baron Calice on the attitude of Italy ..	184
405	„ „ ..	86	5,	Cession of Bessarabian Moldavia to Russia Language of M. Balachino	185

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
406	Sir H. Elliot ..	88 Confidential	Feb. 6, 1878	Conference. Russian Government delay their answer	185
407	" " ..	90	6,	Greek invasion of Turkey. Communications received by Austrian Government ..	186
408	" " .	91 Confidential	6,	Probable views of Austria. Possibility of annexation of Bosnia	186
409	" " ..	93	7,	Future of Widdin. As to	187
410	" " ..	94 Confidential	7,	Roumania and Russia. Note of Roumanian Government claiming to be represented in the negotiations for Peace	187
411	" " ..	95 Confidential	7,	Count Andrassy full of the Conference. He thinks the Powers should take up the interests of all the Christians in opposition to Russia, who supports one particular race. As to Russian delays	189
412	Lord Odo Russell ..	77	4,	Conference at Vienna. German Government will accept Austrian invitation	190
413	" " ..	81	7,	Russian proximity to Constantinople. Has communicated Mr. Layard's report respecting to German Government	190
414	" " ..	83	7,	Conference. German Government will accept any terms which may be agreed upon ..	190
415	" " ..	91 Most Conf.	9,	Prince Bismarck's foreign and domestic policy. As to	191
416	" " ..	92	9,	Dispatch of British fleet to Constantinople. Has invited German Government to do likewise	191
417	Acting Consul Barker.	6 Political	1,	Embarkation of Suleiman Pasha's army. Circassian exodus and pillaging	191
418	Lord A. Loftus ..	145	5,	Russian account of negotiations, throwing blame for delay on Turks .. .	192
419	Consul Sanderson ..	11	5,	Report respecting movements of Russian troops	193
420	M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius (communicated Feb. 11)	..	8,	Thinks Powers should prevail on Porte not to attack insurgents	194
421	" " ..	..	9,	Greek Commander-in-chief says the Christian villages are abandoned upon the withdrawal of the Greek troops	194
422	Count Schouvaloff ..	..	10,	In view of action of British fleet, Russia will send some troops into Constantinople ..	194
423	Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	10,	Entry of ships of war into Dardanelles. Italian and French Representatives have not yet carried out their instructions	195
424	" " ..	Telegraphic	10,	Respecting appointment of Turkish and Russian Plenipotentiaries	195
425	" " ..	Telegraphic	10,	Question of fleet coming to Constantinople. Porte will probably confine itself to protesting	195
426	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	10,	No objection to Colonel Wellesley returning to St. Petersburgh	195
427	" " ..	Telegraphic	10,	British fleet at Constantinople. "Agence Russe" on	195
428	Lord Odo Russell ..	Telegraphic	10,	German naval movements. Respecting ..	196
429	Mr. White	Telegraphic	10,	Nothing known of reported Servian advance ..	196
430	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	11,	Withdrawal of Greek troops from Turkey ..	196
431	Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	11,	Fleets at Constantinople. Action of French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople ..	196
432	" " ..	..	11,	Movements of French vessels. Respecting ..	196
433	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	11,	British fleet will be ordered up at once. Her Majesty's Government feel sure Porte will not resist	197
434	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	11,	Important communication said to have been sent to Count Schouvaloff .. .	197
435	" " ..	Telegraphic	11,	Orders have been sent to occupy Constantinople with consent of Sultan	197
436	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	11,	Count Andrassy seems ready to defer to Prince Gortchakow's objections to Vienna as place of meeting for Conference	197
437	To Mr. Layard ..	Secret Telegraphic	11,	Passage of Dardanelles. Text of orders sent to Admiral Hornby	197
438	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	11,	Count Schouvaloff has notified intention of his Government to send some troops into Constantinople	198
439	To Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	11,	May Her Majesty's Government give assurance required by Porte? To ask the Greek Government	198

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
440	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	Feb. 11, 1878	M. Depretis on the situation. He is anxious to come to an understanding with England and Austria before Conference meets ..	198
441	To Mr. Layard ..	195	11,	Extending No. 433	199
442	" " ..	197 Secret	11,	Instructions to Admiral Hornby. Transmitting copy of	199
443	To Lord A. Loftus ..	130	11,	Extending No. 438	199
444	To Admiralty ..	..	11,	Fleet must proceed at once. To issue the necessary orders	199
445	Consul-General White	2 Political	Jan. 1,	No further military intelligence has been received since the taking of Pirot. Servians fear conclusion of an Armistice at present, as it would check their advance	200
446	" " ..	6 Political	3,	Decree abolishing Custom-house regulations established by Porte	200
447	" " ..	7 Political	11,	Nisch has capitulated to Servians	200
448	" " ..	9 Political	12,	Probability of Armistice much discussed at Belgrade. Two telegrams sent by Porte to Pashas of Nisch and Widdin, respecting Armistice, did not reach	201
449	" " ..	12 Political	15,	Grand Duke Nicholas will endeavour to delay conclusion of Armistice till his army reaches Adrianople	201
450	" " ..	14 Political	16,	Solemn entry of Prince Milan into Nisch made yesterday. Second class Militia is being called out	201
451	" " ..	16 Political	17,	Russian Agent's language betrays desire for great territorial changes, which may lead to military occupation of Bosnia by Austria ..	201
452	" " ..	18 Political	Feb. 1,	Servians have occupied a large district of Turkey, extending from Pirot and Nisch to Vranya	202
453	" " ..	22 Political	4,	Vranya taken by Servians. Grand Duke Nicholas has issued orders for immediate cessation of hostilities	202
454	Mr. Wyndham ..	63	1,	A Vote of Confidence in Greek Government was yesterday passed by 121 votes against 5 ..	202
455	" " ..	64	1,	Two steamers with volunteers have left the Piræus for Thessaly	202
456	" " ..	65	1,	Convention for a new loan was signed to-day between Greek Government and National Bank. Government is negotiating for further loan with Ionian Bank	203
457	" " ..	69	2,	Greek troops crossed frontier this morning. M. Delyanni explains that this step has been taken from purely philanthropic motives ..	203
458	Lieut.-Col-Mansfield .	17 Political	4,	Roumanians are occupying Widdin and Belgradzik, according to Armistice	203
459	" " ..	18 Political Confidential	6,	General Ignatiew has started for Adrianople. He was the bearer of an autograph letter from Emperor to Prince Charles, demanding retrocession of Bessarabia to Russia, in exchange for Dobrudscha. Remarks ..	203
460	Consul Sanderson ..	12 Political	6,	Military movements. Further departure of troops from Galatz	204
461	" " ..	13 Political	7,	Military movements. Sixth Russian army corps near Bender has been ordered not to cross frontier	205
462	Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	10,	Decision of Her Majesty's Government to send ships to Constantinople. Protest of Porte against	205
463	Lord Lyons ..	143	11,	Egyptian financial questions. Proposed co-operation of England and France respecting. M. Waddington is carefully examining matter	205
464	To M. Gennadius ..	..	12,	Substance of report of Greek Commander-in-chief has been telegraphed to Mr. Layard, who has been requested to express the hopes of Her Majesty's Government that disorders will be repressed in Greek provinces of Turkey	206
465	To Musurus Pasha ..	..	12,	Dispatch of fleet to Constantinople. Her Majesty's Government trust that Porte will not view the measure as exceeding requirements of actual situation	206
466	Admiralty	..	11,	Transmits two telegrams from Admiral Hornby relative to movements of his squadron ..	206

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
467	Admiralty	..	Feb. 12, 1878	Transmits telegram from Admiral Hornby. Grand Duke has threatened to occupy Constantinople if fleet passes Dardanelles ..	207
468	To Admiralty ..	Confidential	12,	Transmits communication made to German Government, informing them of the intended despatch of the British fleet to Constantinople	207
469	Mr. Layard ..	194 Telegraphic	11,	Porte was unable to dismantle Constantinople lines altogether in the three days allowed ..	208
470	„ „ ..	195 Telegraphic	..	Refusal of Porte to permit English fleet to enter Dardanelles. Grand Duke's answer to Server Pasha's communication respecting ..	208
471	„ „ ..	196 Confidential Telegraphic	11,	M. Onou is to be sent to Constantinople to arrange further matters with Server Pasha. Further advance of Servians, notwithstanding Armistice	208
472	„ „ ..	197 Telegraphic	11,	Troops, artillery, and torpedoes are being rapidly moved by Russians towards Constantinople	208
473	„ „ ..	198 Telegraphic	11,	Sadullah Bey will be second Turkish Plenipotentiary in forthcoming negotiations ..	209
474	„ „ ..	199 Telegraphic	11,	Chourbe is being besieged by 3,000 Greeks. Number of Hellenic bands increasing in that neighbourhood	209
475	„ „ ..	200 Telegraphic	11,	Dispatch of fleet to Constantinople. If decision of Her Majesty's Government should be changed, owing to intention of Russians to occupy Constantinople if English fleet appears there, he should be informed at once	209
476	Lord A. Loftus ..	29 Telegraphic	11,	Prohibition on export of grain from Russian Black Sea ports removed. Torpedoes, however, remain	209
477	„ „ ..	30 Telegraphic	11,	Fifty torpedo boats ordered by Russians ..	209
478	Lord Odo Russell ..	Telegraphic Secret	12,	Prince Bismarck is urging Count Andrassy to oppose firm resistance to Russia, provided he secures support of England	209
479	Consul-General Stanley	Telegraphic	12,	Some members of the Revolutionary Committee were arrested at Odessa last night, after some resistance	210
480	Mr. Layard ..	201 Telegraphic	12,	Report that numbers of Russian sailors are being sent to Odessa to man Turkish fleet	210
481	„ „ ..	202 Telegraphic	12,	Austrian corvette "Gazelle" ordered to Gallipoli	210
482	To Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	12,	Austrian Government has applied for a Firman for two ships of war to enter the Dardanelles. They wish Italian ships to enter at same time	210
483	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	12,	Orders to English ships to proceed to Constantinople have not been countermanded. To inform Italian Government	210
484	To Sir H. Elliot ..	109 Telegraphic	12,	The Conference. Her Majesty's Government approve language held to Count Andrassy on subject of	211
485	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	12,	Conference. Her Majesty's Government have no objections to offer as to place of meeting of. Has Prince Gortchakow accepted it without reserve?	211
486	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	2,	No question of recalling English fleet. Will Austrian Government make any move? Austrian ships might join English ones .	211
487	To Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	12,	The British ships directed to proceed to Constantinople will be on their way there to-morrow. To inform French Government ..	211
488	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	12,	Communication from Greek Chargé d'Affaires. Desperate state of inhabitants of Thessaly after departure of Greek troops. To inform Porte, and report facts as to alleged panic ..	211
489	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	12,	Count Corti's reasons for not applying for Firman for Italian Government. Italian Government have nothing to confirm rumoured Russo-Turkish alliance	212
490	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	12,	Protest of Porte against dispatch of British fleet to Constantinople. Answer of Her Majesty's Government	212
491	„ „ ..	198	12,	Mr. Blunt. Approves his conduct and action for protection of British interests ..	212

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
492	To Mr. Layard ..	199	Feb. 12, 1878	Mr. Longworth. Approves his proceedings relative to two Petitions made to him by the inhabitants of Kokinoplos	213
493	„ „ ..	200	12,	Instructions to Admiral Hornby not to enter Straits. Approves steps taken for conveying	213
494	„ „ ..	203	12,	Communication from Greek Chargé d'Affaires. Panic in Thessaly on departure of Greek troops. To inform Porte, and report on facts as to panic	213
495	„ „ ..	205	12,	Dispatch of English ships to Constantinople. Transmits protest of Porte against, and reply of Her Majesty's Government	213
496	To Sir H. Elliot ..	110	12,	Proposed Conference. Her Majesty's Government approve the language used to Count Andrassy respecting	214
497	„ „ ..	112	12,	No question of recalling English fleet. Will Austrian Government make any move? Austrian ships might join English ones ..	214
498	„ „ ..	114	12,	The Conference. Her Majesty's Government have no objection to its place of meeting. To ascertain if Prince Gortchakow accepts Conference without reserve	214
499	To Sir A. Paget ..	87 A	12,	Austrian Government has applied for a Firman for two ships-of-war to enter Dardanelles. They would wish Italian ships to enter at same time	214
500	„ „ ..	90 A	12,	The British ships directed to proceed to Constantinople will be on their way there to-morrow. To inform Italian Government ..	215
501	To Lord Lyons ..	116 A	12,	The British ships directed to proceed to Constantinople will be on their way there to-morrow. To inform French Government ..	215
502	Vice-Consul Biliotti .	21 Political	Jan. 27,	Civic Guard. Committee appointed for carrying out Firman relative to compulsory service of Christians, and consequent excitement thereat	215
503	„ „ ..	24 Political	Feb. 2,	State of affairs at Erzeroum	216
504	Acting-Consul Barker	7 Political	6,	Incloses two despatches to Mr. Layard relative to arrival at Salonica of Italian fleet, and disorders committed by Albanians at Monastir	216
505	Lord A. Loftus ..	163	8,	Incloses copies of Preliminaries of Peace ..	218
506	„ „ ..	164	8,	Ill-treatment of English doctors by Russians. Incloses note addressed to Prince Gortchakow respecting	219
507	„ „ ..	165	8,	Reported advance of Russian troops towards Constantinople after conclusion of Armistice. Incloses representation made to Prince Gortchakow relative to	220
508	Lord Lyons ..	140	11,	M. de Moüy and Count Corti have refrained from applying for Firmans, owing to the reported return of English fleet to Besika Bay	220
509	„ „ ..	141	11,	Contradiction in the "Agence Havas" of the report that the French fleet had been ordered to Constantinople. M. Waddington's explanation	221
510	„ „ ..	142 Very Conf.	11,	M. Waddington's explanation seems rather lame	221
511	„ „ ..	145 Secret	12,	Change in French policy since the Duc Decazes went out of office	222
512	Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	12,	The Sultan has appealed to the Queen not to send the fleet to Constantinople	223
513	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	12,	Telegram from Vienna. Russia objects to Vienna as the seat of the Conference, and proposes Dresden or Baden	223
514	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	12,	If the British fleet goes to Constantinople, Russia thinks of sending troops into the town	224
515	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	12,	Appeal from the Sultan to the Queen against the British fleet being sent to Constantinople	224
516	Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff	..	13,	Correspondence between the Sultan and the Emperor of Russia respecting the above ..	224

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
517	Admiralty	..	Feb. 13, 1878	Orders sent to Admiral Hornby to proceed to Constantinople with the British fleet .	225
518	,, ...	..	13,	Admiral Hornby has received the above orders	225
519	M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius	..	12,	Atrocities committed by Turkish irregulars in Thessaly	225
520	Mr. Layard ..	203 Telegraphic	12,	If British fleet goes to Constantinople, Russians think of sending troops into the town ..	226
521	,, ,, ..	204 Telegraphic	12,	Asks for instructions in case Grand Duke directs a Russian force to occupy Constantinople	226
522	,, ,, ..	205 Telegraphic	12,	Believes that no secret alliance has been actually concluded between Turkey and Russia ..	226
523	,, ,, ..	206 Telegraphic	12,	Porte will only protest against the passage of the British fleet through the Dardanelles. Austrian Ambassador has been instructed to ask for Firman	227
524	Lord Odo Russell ..	Telegraphic	12,	German Government will not apply for Firman at present	227
525	Consul-General Stanley	Telegraphic	12,	Members of Revolutionary Committee arrested at Uskub	227
526	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	13,	Withdrawal of Greek troops. M. Condouriotti has been instructed to notify to Porte ..	227
527	,, ,, ..	Telegraphic	13,	Greek Ministers will exercise all legal means to prevent departure of armed bands ..	227
528	Mr. Layard ..	210 Telegraphic	13,	M. Onou's mission to Constantinople ..	228
529	,, ,, ...	211 Telegraphic	13,	British fleet. Correspondence between Sultan and Emperor	228
530	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	13,	Russian sailors said to have been sent to Odessa. To ascertain truth of report ..	228
531	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	13,	For information as to movements of the fleet.	228
532	,, ,, ..	Telegraphic	13,	Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to advise armed resistance to Russian entry into Constantinople. Answer to No. 521 ..	229
533	Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	13,	French Chargé d'Affaires can apply for Firman at any moment, but order to ships is to be sent only from Paris	229
534	,, ,, ...	Telegraphic	13,	French Government wish it to be understood that they will only send ships to avert danger from French subjects	229
535	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	13,	To use good offices on behalf of Polish refugees	229
536	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	13,	M. Deprotis regrets that Russia should be furnished with a pretext, by entry of British ships, for occupying Constantinople ..	229
537	Sir H. Elliot ..	19 Telegraphic	13,	Conference. Prince Gortchakow only objected to place of meeting	230
538	,, ,, ..	20 Telegraphic	13,	Torpedoes embarked at Odessa	230
539	,, ,, ..	21 Telegraphic	13,	Count Zichy instructed to ask for Firman ..	230
540	,, ,, ..	23 Telegraphic	13,	Her Majesty's Government are likely to be asked whether they would assist Austria financially in mobilizing her army ..	230
541	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	13,	To point out to Prince Gortchakow the difference between sending British fleet to Constantinople and the entry of Russian troops into the town	231
542	,, ,, ..	Telegraphic	13,	Gallipoli. Has expressed to Count Schouvaloff earnest hope that Russia will not move troops towards	231
543	To Mr. Layard ..	208	13,	For information as to movements of British fleet	231
544	,, ,, .	211	13,	To use good offices on behalf of Polish refugees at Constantinople	231
545	,, ,, ..	213	13,	Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to advise armed resistance to Russian occupation of Constantinople. Conference seems only solution	232
546	To Lord A. Loftus ..	133	13,	To ascertain truth of rumour that a number of Russian sailors have been sent to Odessa .	232
547	,, ,, ..	138	13,	To point out difference between sending British fleet to Constantinople and entry of Russian troops into the town	232
548	,, ,, ..	140	13,	Conversation with Count Schouvaloff. Has expressed hope of Her Majesty's Government that Russians will not make any movement towards Gallipoli, so as to threaten communications of English fleet	233

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
549	To Mr. Wyndham ..	18 Confidential	Feb. 13, 1878	Conversation with M. Gennadius. Sympathy of Her Majesty's Government with objections of Greek inhabitants of Roumelia to being included in the new State of Bulgaria .	233
550	To Lord Lyons ..	121 Confidential	13,	Objection of Porte to entry of English fleet into Dardanelles. Communication from Marquis d'Harcourt	234
551	Count Schouvaloff ..	..	13,	Telegram from Prince Gortchakow. Owing to presence of English fleet at Constantinople, the Russian Government intend sending a portion of their troops there	234
552	Consul Kirby Green..	15 Political	Jan. 30,	The movement in Mirdicia. Capture by Montenegrins of Granazur and Lesendra, and departure of Ali Saib Pasha for Montenegro ..	234
553	,, ,, ..	16 Political	Feb. 4,	State of affairs in Mirdicia. Letter from Prenk Bib Doda, declaring himself ready to assist in obtaining withdrawal of Turkish troops from Mirdicia	235
554	,, ,, ..	17 Political	4,	Montenegrin operations against Spuz and Podgoritza, and Armistice	237
555	Acting Consul Freeman	5 Political	Jan. 31,	Military movements in Bosnia	238
556	Lord A. Loftus ..	176	Feb. 9,	Advance of Russians upon Constantinople. Incloses answer of Prince Gortchakow to note addressed to him respecting	238
557	,, ,, ..	178	9,	Ill-treatment of English doctors. Answer of Prince Gortchakow to note addressed to him respecting	239
558	Consul-General Stanley	9 Political	9,	Conditions of Armistice. Extract from "Journal d'Odessa," giving them as telegraphed by Grand Duke Nicholas	240
559	Sir C. Wyke ..	7	11,	Reported mobilization of Danish army. Astonishment of Danish press at question asked in the House respecting .	240
560	M. Gennadius ..	Confidential	13,	Proposal that one or two Greek ships-of-war should proceed to Constantinople	241
561	Admiralty	Confidential	14,	Telegram from Vice-Consul Malling, reporting passage of British fleet through the Dardanelles	241
562	Vice-Consul Malling ..	Telegraphic	13,	Fleet has passed through Dardanelles ..	241
563	Vice-Consul Malling to Admiralty	Telegraphic	13,	Passage of fleet through Dardanelles. See Inclosure in No. 561	242
564	Vice-Admiral Hornby to Admiralty	Telegraphic	13,	Announcing passage of fleet through Dardanelles. Fleet now at anchor under Nagara	242
565	Mr. Layard ..	207 Telegraphic	13,	Unsettled feeling at Scutari. Protests of Porte against Montenegrin occupation of positions taken after 31st ultimo	242
566	,, ,, ..	208 Telegraphic Secret	13,	Request of Sultan to Her Majesty's Government not to send fleet through Dardanelles .	242
567	,, ,, ..	209 Telegraphic	13,	Occupation of Constantinople by Russians. Emperor has telegraphed to Sultan, that if British fleet enter Bosphorus it would be impossible for him not to occupy Constantinople with a portion of his troops ..	242
568	,, ,, ..	212 Telegraphic	13,	Telegram from Vice-Consul at Dardanelles, announcing passage of British fleet ..	243
569	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic Secret	14,	Embarkation of torpedoes at Odessa, and dispatch of torpedoes to that place. Can he procure information respecting?	243
570	Mr. Layard ..	213 Telegraphic	14,	Occupation of Kavac by Russians. Telegram from Military Attaché at Gallipoli ..	243
571	,, ,, ..	214 Telegraphic	14,	Firman for Austrian ships. Refusal of Porte to grant	243
572	,, ,, ..	215 Telegraphic	14,	Erzeroum to be evacuated in six days. Terms of evacuation	244
573	,, ,, ..	216 Telegraphic	14,	Ottoman Parliament has been prorogued by Sultan	244
574	Mr. Vivian..	Telegraphic	14,	Rumoured secret understanding between Russia and Khedive. No confirmation of report ..	244
575	Lord A. Loftus ..	32 Telegraphic	14,	Article in "Golos." Occupation of Dardanelles and Gallipoli urged	244
576	,, ,, ..	33 Telegraphic Secret	14,	Large numbers of sailors have been sent at various times to the Danube	244
577	Mr. Stanley ..	Telegraphic	14,	No torpedoes shipped at Odessa. Will try and ascertain about sailors	245

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
578	To Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	Feb. 14, 1878	Greek Government complains of atrocities by Ghegbas after return of Greek troops ..	245
579	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	14,	Italian fleet. M. Depretis not inclined to apply for a Firman	246
580	To Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	14,	Has dissuaded Greek Government from sending ships to Constantinople	245
581	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	14,	Answer to Sultan's message. Will endeavour to obtain good terms for Turkey	246
582	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	14,	Instructions in the event of Russian occupation of Constantinople	246
583	To Lord A. Loftus ..	143 Secret	14,	Torpedoes and sailors being sent south. For information on the subject .. .	246
584	To Mr. Layard ..	215	14,	Approves his communicating withdrawal of Greek troops to the Porte	246
585	„ „ ..	220 Secret	14,	Answer to Sultan's message. Extends No. 581	247
586	„ „ ..	233	14,	Instructions in the event of a Russian occupation of Constantinople. Extends No. 582 ..	247
587	To Mr. Wyndham ..	19 Confidential	14,	Greek Government explain the considerations which led them to invade Turkey ..	247
588	„ „ ..	22	14,	Atrocities committed by Ghegbas in Thessaly .	247
589	„ „ ..	28	14,	Greek Government requests that Porte should be urged to abstain from attacking insurgents. Reply to M. Gennadius	248
590	„ „ ..	25	14,	As to Greek Government sending ships to Constantinople	248
591	To Consul Sandwith..	4	14,	Turkish Commissioners and the Christian Delegates in Crete. Approves proceedings with a view to bring about a meeting	248
592	Vice-Consul Maling ..	Telegraphic	14,	Movements of the fleet	248
593	Mr. Layard. ..	151	Jan. 31,	Return of numbers of British subjects in Constantinople	249
594	„ „ ..	152	31,	Telegram from Turkish Plenipotentiaries with reference to signature of Bases of Peace .	249
595	„ „ .	153	31,	Grand Vizier's answer to the above. Measures will be taken for suspension of hostilities ..	250
596	„ „ ..	154 Very Conf.	31,	Russians wish to sign Peace at Constantinople. Sheikh ul Islam to give a Fetva deprecating further resistance	250
597	„ „ ..	155 Secret	Feb. 1,	Emperor's telegram to the Sultan respecting Bases of Armistice	250
598	„ „ ..	156	1,	Turkish Chamber of Deputies. Answer to Sultan's speech	251
599	„ „ ..	157	1,	Textual copy of Bases of Peace	252
600	„ „ ..	158	1,	Turkish Deputies dissatisfied with Sultan's Ministers	253
601	„ „ ..	159	2,	Bitter feeling of Turks against England ..	254
602	„ „ ..	160	3,	Measures for resisting Greek invasion ..	254
603	„ „ ..	161	3,	Has declined to give advice to Porte respecting their diplomatic relations with Greece ..	255
604	„ „ ..	162	3,	Duration of Armistice. Turks will be obliged to accept any conditions imposed by Russia .	255
605	„ „ ..	163	4,	Mr. Rassam's report on Mosul and Kurdistan .	256
606	„ „ ..	164	4,	Crete. Costaki and Mehemet Ali Pashas appointed Civil and Military Governors respectively	263
607	„ „ ..	165	4,	Affairs at Adrianople. From Consul Blunt ..	263
608	„ „ ..	166	4,	Ministerial changes at Constantinople ..	263
609	„ „ ..	167	4,	Greek invasion. Account of the origin of the insurrection in Greek provinces, and the Porte's efforts to repress it	264
610	„ „ ..	168	4,	Two resolutions to be proposed to Chamber against the Ministers and advisers of the Sultan, and calling for immediate trial of ex-Ministers and Generals	266
611	„ „ ..	169	4,	Imperial Hatt abolishing Grand Vizierate and appointing Ahmed Vefyk Prime Minister ..	266
612	„ „ ..	170	4,	Letter from Consul Blunt respecting fugitives. Account of his journey from Adrianople to Tchorlu	267
613	„ „ ..	171	4,	Last despatch from Vice-Consul Calvert before Philippopolis was occupied by Russians ..	269
614	„ „ ..	172	5,	Affairs near Varna and Bourgas. Despatch from Consul Reade and Vice-Consul Brophy. "Torch" left Constantinople to visit ..	270
615	„ „ ..	173	5,	Rodosto was occupied on 2nd instant. Russian Consul appointed Governor	272

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
616	Mr. Layard ..	176	Feb. 5, 1878	Proposed formation of Bulgaria. Its dependence on Russia is of serious consequence to British interests	273
617	„ „ ..	176	5,	Events at Adrianople from departure of Turks to the entry of Russians. Report of foreign Consuls	273
618	„ „ ..	177	5,	Only telegraphic communication with England by Pera and Bombay. Notice from Director-General of Telegraphs	277
619	„ „ ..	178	5,	Porte removing some forces from Gallipoli to employ them against Greece, relying on Russian pledges	277
620	„ „ ..	179	5,	Russian advance at Tchataldja. Anxiety of Porte. Telegram from Turkish Commander at Silivria, and telegram from Porte to Server Pasha	278
621	„ „ ..	180	6,	Russians still pushing on. Account of fugitives	279
622	„ „ ..	182	6,	Russian occupation of Adrianople. Letter from Consul Blunt respecting	280
623	„ „ ..	183	6,	Despatches from Consul Blunt. Arrest of a Dutch subject by Russians. Extract of Mr. Blunt's Journal. Action of Consular Body respecting Russian occupation of Adrianople	281
624	„ „ ..	184	6,	Carrying arms in Constantinople is prohibited .	288
625	„ „ ..	185	6,	Constantinople and Dardanelles at mercy of Russia. Should not some steps be taken with a view of this contingency	288
626	„ „ ..	186	6,	Signature of Bases of Peace and Armistice. Telegram from the Turkish Plenipotentiaries to Grand Vizier, announcing	288
627	„ „ ..	190	6,	Sitting of Chamber of Deputies. Ahmed Vefyk Pasha present. Résumé of	289
628	„ „ ..	191	6,	Ahmed Vefyk's appointment as Prime Minister. How it was brought about	289
629	„ „ ..	Confidential 192	6,	Line of defence of Constantinople forms about the centre of the neutral zone between the armies. Constantinople at the mercy of the Russians	291
630	„ „ ..	193	7,	Russian proceedings in and near Adrianople.	291
631	„ „ ..	Confidential 194	8,	Extract of private letter from Consul Blunt . Treatment of English doctors by Russians. Extracts from Dr. Kirkpatrick's Journal ..	292
632	„ „ ..	195	8,	Protocol of Peace Bases and Convention of Armistice signed on the 31st ultimo ..	296
633	„ „ ..	197	8,	Extracts from Consul Blunt's Journal ..	300
634	„ „ ..	198	8,	Affairs in district of Salonica. From Acting Consul Barker	302
635	„ „ ..	199	8,	Proceedings of Cossacks and Bulgarians with respect to two English subjects near Varna. From Consul Reade	302
636	Vice-Consul Biliotti ..	23	Jan. 31,	Attack by Russians on Tsarik-Soo army. Telegram to Constantinople	305
637	Consul Sandwith ..	11	Feb. 1	Migration of Mussulman peasantry from their homes. Conversation with the Vali ..	305
638	„ „ ..	12	2,	Struggle between peace and war parties. The Commissioners gone to meet Delegates in Ayokorona	306
639	Consul T. Reade ..	4	4,	Arrival of Mussulman refugees from Roumelia in a destitute condition at Smyrna. Despatch to Constantinople	307
640	Mr. Wyndham ..	67	2,	Greek troops have crossed frontiers into Turkey	308
641	„ „ ..	69	2,	Action of Greek Government in sending troops into Turkey. Do not desire rupture with the Porte	308
642	„ „ ..	71	2,	Conversation with M. Delyanni respecting Greece sending troops into Turkey .	308
643	„ „ ..	72	3,	News of signature of Armistice received from Mr. Layard was at once communicated to M. Delyanni	309
644	„ „ ..	74	3,	Armistice. Hellenic forces probably not included in. Guaranteeing Powers might prevail on Greece to withdraw her troops	310
645	„ „ ..	76	3,	Position of Greece with regard to Turkey. M. Delyanni's anxiety as to. Conversation with him respecting	310
646	„ „ ..	78	4,	Turkish fleet expected at the Piræus to-morrow. Greek Government deliberating upon an appeal to the Powers	310

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
647	Sir A. Paget ..	72	Feb. 4, 1878	Critical position of Greece. Conversation with M. Delyannis. Appeal to Powers deliberated on by Greek Government. Incloses telegram respecting, addressed to their respective Governments by the foreign Representatives	311
648	" " ..	80	5,	Entry of Greek troops into Turkey. Incloses telegram respecting, addressed by Greek Government to its Representatives abroad ..	312
649	Sir C. Scbright ..	8 Political	11,	State of affairs at Corfu. Incloses two despatches from Vice-Consul Onufrio, respecting military movements at Santa Maura ..	313
650	M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius	..	Jan. 6/Feb. 7,	Entry of Greek troops into Greek provinces of Turkey. Reasons for. To communicate to English Government	315
651	" " ..	..	Jan. 6/Feb. 7,	Orders have been sent to Greek troops to recross the frontier. Hopes of Greek Government as to representation in the Congress	316
652	.. .. ..	Telegraphic	Feb. 13,	Atrocities of Greeks in Thessaly	318
653	Lord Lyons ..	154	13,	Firmans for French ships. Order to French Chargé d'Affaires to apply for same not made absolute	318
654	" " ..	155 Confidential	13,	Dispatch of French ships to Constantinople, contingent on actual danger of French citizens there	319
655	Sevcr Pasha to Mukhtar Pasha	Telegraphic	14,	Dispatch of British fleet to Constantinople. Protest of Porte against	319
656	Lord A. Loftus ..	85 Telegraphic	15,	The Conference. Nothing decided as to place of meeting. Prince Gortchakow does not wait the Presidency	319
657	" " ..	36 Telegraphic Secret	15,	Admiral Popow and Captain Baranoff have gone to Odessa. Torpedo boats have been lately sent there	320
658	" " ..	37 Telegraphic Confidential	15,	Entry of Russian troops into Constantinople. Mr. Layard reported to have advised resistance to. Difficulty to deny the report to Count Schouvaloff	320
659	Mr. Layard ..	217 Telegraphic	15,	Admiral arrived at Prinkipo. Hasty visit from admirals	320
660	Lord Odo Russell ..	Telegraphic Confidential	15,	Conference. German Government would agree to Berlin as a place of meeting for	320
661	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	15,	Memorandum respecting occupation of Gallipoli or Dardanelles by Russians given to Count Schouvaloff	320
662	To Lieut.-Col. Mansfield	Telegraphic	15,	To ascertain strength and position of Russian forces in Roumania	321
663	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	15,	Instructions sent to Admiral Hornby respecting Gallipoli are to be communicated by Admiral Hornby to him. They are to concert as to how far Porte should be informed ..	321
664	To Lord A. Loftus ..	145	15,	Communication to Russian Ambassador. Memorandum respecting Gallipoli and Dardanelles	321
665	To Sir H. Elliot ..	126	15,	Incloses Memorandum respecting Gallipoli and Dardanelles delivered to Count Schouvaloff.	321
666	To Lieut.-Col. Mansfield	10	15,	To ascertain strength and position of Russian forces in Roumania	322
667	To Mr. Wyndham ..	28	15,	Transmits two communications from Greek Government. See Nos. 650 and 651 ..	322
668	To Admiralty ..	..	16,	Incloses reports of the proceedings of Her Majesty's ship "Torch"	322
669	Admiralty	Secret	16,	Incloses telegrams from Admiral Hornby respecting passage of fleet through Dardanelles and projected defence of Gallipoli Peninsula	322
670	To M. Gennadius ..	Confidential	15,	Dispatch of Greek ships to Constantinople. Her Majesty's Government cannot advise this step, as it might have disastrous results ..	323
671	To Mr. Layard ..	227 Secret	15,	Transmits instructions respecting Gallipoli sent to Admiral Hornby. To concert with him as to how far Porte should be informed ..	323
672	Mr. Wyndham ..	82	5,	Orders have been sent to Greek troops not to advance further into Thessaly. Troops said to be near Domoko	324
673	.. ..	83 Confidential	6,	Dispatch of Greek troops into Turkey. Disapproval of Italian and French Governments at. Conversation with M. Tissot. Orders have been sent to stop their advance ..	324
674	Mr. Wyndham ..	84 Confidential	Feb. 6, 1878	Application of Greeks to Russian Government to be included in Armistice. Refusal of Russian Government	325
675	" " ..	85 Confidential	6,	Greek Government unaware on the 1st instant of the Armistice having been signed. Troops were sent across frontier to avoid demonstrations at Athens	325
676	" " ..	87	6,	Orders have been sent for withdrawal of Greek troops from Turkish territory	325
677	" " ..	88	7,	Dispatch of Greek troops across frontier. Communicated to Greek Government yesterday. Remonstrance of Her Majesty's Government against. Statement of M. Delyanni of the withdrawal of the troops	325
678	" " ..	89 Confidential	7,	Greek armaments still being continued. Remonstrance against made to M. Delyanni by M. Tissot and Mr. Wyndham	327
679	" " ..	90 Confidential	7,	Meeting of Representatives of Great Powers. M. Delyanni urged to put a stop to departure of armed bands from Greece	327
680	" " ..	91	7,	Assurances of Her Majesty's Government as to the populations of the Greek provinces of Turkey were communicated to M. Delyanni to-day	327
681	" " ..	92 Confidential	7	Russian Minister at Athens has been urging Greece to invade Turkish territory ..	328
682	" " ..	93	8,	The withdrawal of Greek troops from Turkey. M. Delyanni has been informed of the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at ..	328
683	" " ..	94	8,	Incloses letter from Consul Merlin respecting the departure of armed bands from the Piræus on board steamers of the Greek Steam Navigation Company	329
684	Lord A. Loftus ..	186	11,	Incloses note addressed to Prince Gortchakow informing him of the dispatch of the fleet to Constantinople	330
685	Vice-Consul Basham	7 Political	10	Demand of Russia for retrocession of Bessarabia. Indignation at Jassy	330
686	Admiralty	..	15,	Incloses telegram from Rear-Admiral Commerell respecting defences of Gallipoli	330
687	"	Confidential	16,	Telegram from Admiral Hornby announcing his intention of proceeding to Mudania ..	331
688	Sevcr Pasha to Mukhtar Pasha	Telegraphic	16,	Announcing the fresh Greek invasion ..	331
689	Lord A. Loftus ..	34 Telegraphic	15,	Substance of Foreign Office telegram of 12th (No. 541) communicated to Prince Gortchakow this morning. Conversation with him respecting	331
690	Consul-General Stanley	Telegraphic	15,	Departure of Russian sailors for Danube. Concentration of Russian troops on Austrian frontier and in Roumania	332
691	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	15,	Application of Austrian Government for Firman. Answer of Porte not considered as a final refusal	332
692	" " .	95 Telegraphic	15,	Dispatch of English ships to Constantinople. Austrian Government urged to do the same, so as not to make England appear to be isolated	332
693	Mr. Layard .	218 Telegraphic	15,	Doctors Smith, Goodrich, and Denton left in Russian hands at Stringli, have not been heard of since. Names of three doctors ill-treated by Russians	332
694	" " ..	219 Telegraphic	15,	Interview with Sultan. Sultan earnestly requests removal of British ships from Constantinople, in order to avert Russian occupation of that city. British fleet left for Mudania	333
695	" " ..	220 Telegraphic	15,	Greek movements at to state of Thessaly communicated to Porte. Reports said to be unfounded by Turks	333
696	" " ..	221 Telegraphic	16,	Telegram from Emperor of Russia. As the British fleet has been sent to Constantinople to protect Christians, Russian Government have in view the entry of their troops for same purpose. Points out that he has never informed Her Majesty's Government that Christians were in danger, now that armistice has been concluded	333

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
697	Mr. Layard ..	221 Most Secret	Feb. 15, 1878	If Her Majesty's Government will assist Sultan with men or money, he would still defend Constantinople against Russians	333
698	" " ..	222 Telegraphic	15,	Supposed excesses of irregular troops in Thessaly declared untrue by Prime Minister. Greek troops have advanced as far as Arta .	334
699	" " ..	223 Telegraphic	16,	Endeavours are being made by Russians to exclude the whole Mahommedan population from Bulgaria	334
700	" " ..	224 Secret Telegraphic	16,	Foreign Office telegram of 14th instant communicated to Sultan yesterday (see No. 681) ..	334
701	" " ..	225 Telegraphic	16,	Italian Government prevailed upon by Prince Bismarck not to send ships to Constantinople	334
702	" " ..	227 Secret Telegraphic	16,	Telegram from Sir A. Kenball. Russian demands with regard to line of demarcation in Asia	335
703	Vice-Consul Odoni ..	Telegraphic	15,	Position of British fleet	335
704	Consul Kirby Green ..	Telegraphic	16,	Affairs in Montenegro	335
705	Consul-General Stanley	Telegraphic	16,	2,000 Russian seamen said to be in Roumania .	335
706	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	16,	Despatch of Italian ships to Constantinople. Italian Government think it would be desirable, but cannot do so until they know what answer has been given to Austrian demand for a Firman	335
707	Lord Odo Russell ..	Telegraphic Private	16,	In event of war between England and Russia German Government would remain neutral .	336
708	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	16,	The Queen's reply to Sultan's message ..	336
709	To Ambassadors ..	Telegraphic	16,	Her Majesty's Government urge immediate assembling of the Conference	336
710	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	16,	He may contradict statement that Mr. Layard has advised Porte to resist Russian entry into Constantinople	337
711	" " .	Telegraphic	16,	Conversation with Count Schouvaloff. Her Majesty's Government desire that the whole of the peninsula defended by the Bulair lines should be free from Russian occupation	337
712	To Lord Odo Russell.	Telegraphic Secret	16,	Supposed attempt of Emperor of Germany to improve relations between Austria and Russia. To ascertain if true, and if so, what results	337
713	To Lord Lyons ..	131	16,	Her Majesty's Government urge immediate assembling of Conference. To state to French Government	337
714	To Lord Odo Russell.	83 Secret	16,	Supposed attempt of Emperor of Germany to improve relations between Austria and Russia. To ascertain if true, and if so, what results	337
715	To Lord A. Loftus ..	147	16,	He may contradict statement that Mr. Layard has advised Porte to resist Russian entry into Constantinople	338
716	" " ..	150 Most Conf.	16,	Conversation with Count Schouvaloff, Question of Peninsula of Gallipoli. Russia not desirous of going to war with England ..	338
717	To Mr. Layard ..	239	16,	The Queen's reply to the Sultan's message ..	338
718	" " ..	Most Conf.	16,	Conversation with Musurus Pasha. Attitude of Her Majesty's Government in sending ships to Constantinople	339
719	Sir A. Paget ..	126 Confidential	10,	Advance of Russians on Constantinople. Conversation with M. Deprotis respecting ..	339
720	" " ..	127	11,	Firman for Italian ships. In consequence of the tranquillity at Constantinople, Count Corti has not asked for one	340
721	" " ..	128 Very Conf.	11,	Projected Russian occupation of Constantinople. Conversation with M. Deprotis respecting ..	34
722	" " ..	135 Confidential	12,	Conversation with M. Deprotis. Reasons assigned by Count Corti for not applying for a Firman	341
723	" " ..	143 Confidential	14,	Austrian Government have applied for Firman for two ships-of-war to enter Dardanelles, Austrian Government would wish Italian ships to enter at same time. Her Majesty's Government support this wish. Conversation with M. Deprotis respecting	342
724	Sir C. Wyke ..	8	13,	Sensational article in "Pall Mall Gazette," stating that Denmark is about to revive Schleswig-Holstein question. Contradiction of in Danish "Official Gazette"	344
725	Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	17,	Telegram from Sultan. Further appeal to withdraw English fleet from Constantinople .	344

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
726	Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	Feb. 16, 1878	Request of Emperor to Sultan for permission to send part of his troops to Constantinople. Answer of Sultan	344
727	" " ..	230 Telegraphic	17,	Telegram from Consul Green. Russian and Turkish officers have been sent to verify positions held by Montenegrins	344
727*	Lord Odo Russell ..	Telegraphic	17,	Count Bismarck's views as to Congress, and attitude of Germany and Austria as to war between Russia and England .. .	344*
728	Lord A. Loftus ..	134	2,	Article relating to ulterior understanding for safeguarding Russian interests in the Straits. As to striking out from Preliminaries of Peace	345
729	" " ..	136 Confidential	2,	Validity of future Treaty. Communication made by Austrian Ambassador. Annoyance of Prince Gortchakow at	345
730	" " ..	144	5,	Speech of Emperor after parade on 3rd instant.	345
731	" " ..	152 Confidential	6,	Place of meeting of Conference. An official correspondence is going on between Russia and Austria respecting	346
732	" " ..	154	7,	Assurances of Russian Government that their troops have not advanced since conclusion of Armistice	346
733	" " ..	156	7,	Appeal of Greek Government to Russian Government to defend them from Turkish attacks. Answer of Russian Government ..	347
734	" " ..	161	8,	Vienna as place of meeting of Conference. Despatch containing Prince Gortchakow's objections to will reach Vienna to-morrow ..	347
735	" " ..	182 Secret	10,	Colonel Wellesley. No objection to his returning to his post	347
736	" " ..	184	10,	Article from "Agence Russe" respecting the entry of British fleet into the Dardanelles ..	347
737	" " ..	188	11,	An important communication, supposed to have reference to occupation of Constantinople by the Russians, was sent to Count Schouvaloff to-day	348
738	" " ..	201	12,	Telegram published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" announcing the intended entry of a portion of the Russian forces into Constantinople	348
739	" " ..	204	13,	Article from "Golos" relative to the position, in regard to Russia, of England and Austria at the Conference	349
740	" " ..	208 Confidential	13,	Interview with Prince Ghika. Decision of Roumanian Chambers to oppose retrocession to Russia of Bessarabia	350
741	Lord Odo Russell ..	96A	10,	Only one German ship at Salonica. Prince Reuss has been asked whether it is required at Constantinople	350
742	" " ..	99 Secret	12,	Prince Bismarck in urging Austria to oppose Russia, with co-operation of England ..	350
743	" " ..	101	12,	German Government have decided not to apply for a Firman, owing to the tranquillity at Constantinople	351
744	" " ..	104 Confidential	14,	Place of meeting for Conference. German Government would object to any German capital, but would agree to Baden Baden ..	351
745	" " ..	106	15,	Conversation of Emperor with President of the Reichstag. His hopes that peace will be maintained	351
746	" " ..	108 Very Conf.	15,	Conversation of General Cialdini with French Ambassador at Berlin, respecting impressions the former had derived from his visit there.	352
747	Lord Lyons ..	166	16,	Instructions respecting the urgency of assembling the Conference immediately were communicated to M. Waddington without delay.	352
748	M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius (communicated Feb. 18)	..	17,	Contradicting statement that Greek troops had recrossed Turkish frontier	352
749	Count Schouvaloff ..	..	18,	Assurance respecting Gallipoli and Bulair. In return, Russia expects an English to land on the coast of Asia or Europe	353
750	Admiralty	..	18,	Proceedings of the squadron in Sea of Marmora and Besika Bay. From Captain of "Raleigh" and Admiral Hornby	353
751	M. Gennadius ..	..	18,	Appeal from Government of Pelion to Greek Ministry	354

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
752	Mr. Layard ..	229 Telegraphic	Feb. 17, 1878	Explanations of delay in telegrams and alleged inaccuracy in statements	353
753	Mr. Layard ..	231 Telegraphic Most Secret	17,	Dardanelles. Respecting securing possession of	353
754	" " ..	233 Telegraphic	17,	Russians at Keshan, on road to Sharkeui. Engineers at Rodosto	355
755	" " ..	234 Telegraphic	17,	Thessaly. Revolution spreading among Christians. Panic among Turks. From Longworth at Larissa	356
756	" " ..	235 Telegraphic Secret	17,	Alarm of Sultan at threatened Russian occupation of the capital. His Majesty hopes Her Majesty's Government will prevent .	356
757	" " ..	236 Telegraphic	17,	Statement in "Daily News" about Server Pasha. Great indignation felt. Denies ever encouraging Turks to continue the war	356
758	" " ..	237 Telegraphic	17,	Lines of Bulair. Opinion of General Dickson as to holding. Suleiman Pasha withdrawn from Gallipoli	356
759	" " ..	238 Telegraphic	17,	Conclusion of Peace. Idea of special Envoy to Emperor to hasten	357
760	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	17,	Italy wants immediate meeting of Conference. M. Depretis denies that Prince Bismarck persuaded him not to send ships to Constantinople ..	357
761	Lord A. Loftus ..	38 Telegraphic	17,	Russian force to occupy Constantinople—30,000 men	357
762	Mr. Layard ..	239 Telegraphic	18,	Russian movement on Sharkeui. Bullocks collected probably to move heavy guns. From Captain Fife	357
763	" " ..	240 Telegraphic	18,	Turkish ship seized for breach of blockade. Captain alleges that English Consul at Berdiansk authorized her sailing. Porte wants inquiries made	358
764	Lord Odo Russell ..	Telegraphic Confidential	18,	Germany will not ask for Firman for ships ..	358
765	" " ..	Telegraphic Secret	18,	Austria and Russia. Has tried to find out if Emperor of Germany is trying to improve relations between	358
766	Colonel Mansfield ..	Telegraphic	18,	11,800 Russian troops in Roumania. No sign of positions being taken up on Austrian frontier	358
767	Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	18,	Immediate meeting of Conference. France urging Russia to. French Foreign Minister thinks it lies with Austria to expedite arrangements	358
768	" " ..	Telegraphic	18,	Gallipoli and occupation of Constantinople. Telegram from French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh	359
769	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	18,	Her Majesty's Government would buy frigate "Hamidieh" from Porte for 440,000*l*. Urge Porte to sell	359
770	To Embassies ..	Telegraphic	18,	Repeats No. 749	359
771	To Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	18,	Porte states Greeks have again invaded country as far as Arta. Is this true?	359
772	To Vice-Consul at Berdiansk	Telegraphic	18,	Repeats No. 763. Inquire and report by telegraph	360
773	Sir H. Elliot ..	26 Telegraphic	18,	Count Andrassy will at once propose to Russia and other Governments that Congress should meet at Baden Baden early in March ..	360
774	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	18,	Approves language in telegram of 15th, respecting Austrian ships joining British ships in Sea of Marmora	360
775	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	18,	Further telegram from Sultan to the Queen, asking the withdrawal of fleet. His Majesty urges necessity of one of three courses. Reply returned to Mussurus Pasha ..	360
776	To Lord Odo Russell.	Telegraphic	18,	Prince Bismarck's statement in his telegram of 17th (see No. 707). Can he elicit clearer statement from Prince? On what mission is General Manteuffel sent to St. Petersburgh?	360
777	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic Secret	18,	Repeats No. 727*, for observations	361
778	To Lord A. Loftus ..	152	18,	Extends No. 770. Sends copy of Memorandum	361
779	To Mr. Layard ..	246	18,	Extends No. 769, respecting "Hamidieh" ..	361
780	" " ..	250	18,	Extends No. 775, respecting telegram from Sultan to Queen, urging withdrawal of British fleet	361
781	To Sir H. Elliot ..	132	18,	Extends No. 774, respecting Austrian ships ..	362

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
782	To Sir H. Elliot ..	133 Secret	Feb. 18 1878	Extends No. 777, and incloses copy of Lord O. Russell's telegram	362
783	To Lord Odo Russell.	85 Secret	18,	Extends No. 776; respecting statements made by Prince Bismarck	362
784	" " ..	87	18,	Extends No. 770, respecting assurances as to Gallipoli and Bulair	363
785	To Mr. Wyndham ..	27	18,	Greeks again invaded Turkish territory as far as Arta. Extends No. 771	363
786	To Admiralty ..	Confidential	18,	No objection to fleet remaining at Mindhania.	363
787	Consul-General Eldridge	11	1,	Condition of Bulgarian prisoners at Acre and Beyrout. Despatch to Constantinople ..	364
788	Sir A. Paget ..	147 Confidential	16,	Respecting sending ships to Constantinople. Conversation with M. Depretis	365
789	Admiralty ..	..	18,	Proceedings of "Torch" at Bourgas. Commander Hammond has been already approved.	366
790	"	..	18,	Proceedings of "Torch" at Rodosto. Report.	366
791	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	18,	Is assured that no regular Greek troops have crossed frontier since withdrawal of troops	367
792	Sir H. Elliot ..	29 Telegraphic	18,	Conversation with Count Andrassy respecting passage of Austrian ships to Constantinople.	367
793	Mr. Layard ..	241 Telegraphic	18,	Demands of Russia. Conversation with Prime Minister	368
794	Lord A. Loftus .	39 Telegraphic	18,	300 torpedoes going to be sent south ..	368
795	" " .	40 Telegraphic	18,	Ill-treatment of English doctors. Note from M. de Giers	368
796	Lord O. Russell ..	Telegraphic	19.	General Manteuffel. No foundation for report of his visit to Russia	368
797	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	19.	Attack imminent at Plevna. Steps taken for removing women and children	369
798	Mr. Layard ..	242 Telegraphic	19,	Server Pasha dismissed from post of Minister for Foreign Affairs	369
799	Consul - General Stanley	Telegraphic	19,	New accoutrements being sent to the Russian Guard at the front	369
800	Vice-Consul Lowe ..	Telegraphic	19,	Turkish ship "Tanaghia Magasriotissa" received permission to load from Custom-house and certificate from himself	369
801	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	19,	Telegraph cable between Tenedos and Scio. Agreement between Admiralty and Eastern Telegraph Company. To obtain permission for landing cable at Tenedos	369
802	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	19,	Expulsion of Mussulmans from Bulgaria. What does Count Andrassy think of Russian demand for?	370
803	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	19,	What are the new terms on which Russia is insisting?	370
804	To Embassies ..	Telegraphic	19,	Memorandum given to Count Schouvaloff in reply to Russian assurances about Gallipoli and Bulair	370
805	To Lord Odo Russell.	Telegraphic	19,	Conference at Baden Baden early in March. Germany agrees to proposal	370
806	Memorandum for Count Schouvaloff	Telegraphic	19,	Satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at assurances respecting Gallipoli and Bulair. Counter assurances	370
807	To Mr. Layard ..	252	19,	New terms of Russia. What are they? Extends No. 803	371
808	To Embassies ..	..	19,	Conference. Extends No. 805	371
809	To Sir H. Elliot ..	137	19,	Mussulman expulsion. Extends No. 802 ..	371
810	" " ..	139	19,	Gallipoli, Bulair. Assurances. Extends No. 804	371
811	To Lord A. Loftus ..	154	19,	Transmits copy of No. 806	371
812	Consul Sandwith ..	13	8,	Articles embodying fresh demands of Cretan Christians. Presented to Commissioners on the 3rd instant. Delay of a week for reply of Porte to	372
813	" " ..	14	8,	Excesses at Galata (Crete). Action of new Vali, Costaki Pasha. Conduct of Greek Consul .	372
814	Consul Sandwith ..	15 Confidential	11.	Moslems of Crete deprecate their country being formed into an autonomous State or a Principality. They would prefer giving their allegiance to England	373
815	" " ..	16	11.	Arrival in Suda Bay of a battalion of Nizams from Bengazi	374
816	" " ..	17	11.	Announcement made of withdrawal of Greek troops from Turkish territory. Outrages at Rethymo. Has asked for a man-of-war ..	374
817	Lord Lyons ..	173	16.	Conference. M. Waddington considers no progress can be made until an understanding is come to as to the programme	375

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
818	Lord Lyons ..	174 Confidential	Feb. 18, 1878	Passage of Dardanelles by British fleet. Occupation of Constantinople by Russia. Report from French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh	375
819	M. Jon Ghica ..	..	17,	Memorandum respecting present position of Roumania	376
820	Memorandum communicated by Count Beust	..	20,	Peace Conditions. Conference at Baden Baden accepted by Germany. No answer from Russia	379
821	Mr. Layard ..	243 Telegraphic	19,	Terms of Peace. General heads of ..	380
822	" " ..	244 Telegraphic	19,	Grand Duke's head-quarters to be at San Stefano. Constantinople to be occupied if British ships re-enter the Bosphorus ..	380
823	" " ..	245 Telegraphic	19,	Porte says that Bulair lines cannot be defended without British co-operation by sea. In that case forts on Asiatic side might be handed over to Her Majesty's Government ..	381
824	" " ..	246 Telegraphic	19,	Sultan considers that the Terms of Peace put an end to his Empire in Europe, and military preparations have been ordered	381
825	" " ..	247 Telegraphic	19,	Porte has sent instructions for sale of frigate to Her Majesty's Government. Money should be remitted at once to Turkey ..	381
826	" " ..	248 Telegraphic	19,	Safvet Pasha appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs	381
827	" " ..	249 Telegraphic	19,	Safvet Pasha proposes to telegraph to Emperor of Russia to beg him to modify demands ..	381
828	" " ..	42 Telegraphic	19,	Negotiations going on as to navigation of Black Sea	382
829	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	19,	Count Andrassy seems impressed with an increased sense of the risk to which Austria would be exposed by a war with Russia ..	382
830	" " ..	31 Telegraphic	19,	Declaration of Prince Auersperg in the House of Representatives	382
831	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	19,	Congress at Baden Baden accepted by Italy. M. Depretis anxious to learn the views of Her Majesty's Government. Anti-Russian language of the King	383
832	Sir H. Elliot ..	32 Telegraphic	20,	If Russian arrangements respecting Servia and Montenegro are carried out, Bosnia will be annexed by Austria	383
833	" " ..	33 Telegraphic	20,	Indignation of Count Andrassy at Russian demand for expulsion of Mussulmans from Bulgaria	383
835	Mr. Layard ..	250 Telegraphic	20,	Secret negotiations known to Russia. Server Pasha was most probably the traitor ..	383
836	" " ..	251 Telegraphic	20,	Emperor of Russia has refused to receive an Envoy from the Sultan	384
837	" " ..	252 Telegraphic	20,	Russians have demanded surrender of Turkish fleet and occupation of Constantinople. Extreme gravity of situation	384
838	Lord Odo Russell ..	Telegraphic	20,	Prince Gortchakow has asked for a later date for meeting of the Conference than the beginning of March	384
839	" " ..	Telegraphic	20,	Prince Bismarck's speech has produced an excellent impression at Berlin	384
840	" " ..	Telegraphic	20,	Will endeavour to elicit further statement from Prince Bismarck. Germany would probably desert Austria if triple alliance broke up ..	384
841	To Lord Odo Russell ..	Telegraphic	20,	What are the documents referred to in Prince Bismarck's speech as having just been received?	385
842	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	20,	Are the Peace Preliminaries known to Austria different from those in "Turkey No. 12?" ..	385
843	" " ..	Telegraphic	20,	General Ignatiew's conditions are stated by Count Beust to be infinitely harder than the general bases. Conference at Baden accepted by Germany	385
844	To Lord A. Loftus ..	158	20,	Reported advance of Russian army. Approves note to Prince Gortchakow	385
845	" " ..	160	20,	British fleet ordered to Constantinople. Approves note to Prince Gortchakow ..	386
846	" " ..	161	20,	Ill-treatment of British doctors. To point out to Russian Government that the complaints were only too well founded	386
847	" " ..	166	20,	Proceedings of Cossacks and Bulgarians near Varna. To bring to notice of Russian Government	386

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
848	To Mr. Layard ..	253	Feb. 20, 1878	Investment of Philippopolis by Russians. Entire approval of Mr. Calvert's conduct ..	386
849	To Lord Lyons ..	140	20,	United representation to Russia with object of urging immediate assembling of Conference. Approves note to M. Waddington ..	387
850	To Lord Odo Russell ..	103	20,	Extends No. 841	387
851	To Sir H. Elliot ..	141	20,	Extends No. 842	387
852	To Consul-Kirby Green	3	20,	Mirdicia. Approves his endeavours to obtain a pacification	387
853	To M. Gennadius ..	..	20,	Alleged atrocities by Ghegbas in Thessaly. Porte denies truth of report	388
854	Consul Kirby Green..	13	10,	Disturbances at Podgoritza. Hussein Pasha has promised to go to Podgoritza ..	388
855	" " ..	19	11,	Advance of Montenegrins in spite of Armistice	388
856	" " ..	20	11,	Grain for Montenegrins. Explanations of Hussein Pasha.	389
857	" " ..	21	11,	Bashi-Bazouks have invaded Mirdicia and are ravaging the country	391
858	Lord A. Loftus ..	224	17,	Preliminary Bases of Peace and Armistice Convention. Forwards official text of ..	391
859	Sir H. Elliot ..	34 Telegraphic	20,	Views of Austria with regard to the new Bulgaria and isolation of Bosnia	395
860	" " ..	35 Telegraphic	20,	Congress. Count Andrassy does not like being the only Minister for Foreign Affairs to attend	395
861	Mr. Layard ..	254 Telegraphic	20,	Austria is only to be consulted with regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina	396
862	" " ..	255 Telegraphic	20,	Bases of Peace. Corrections of those given in No. 821	396
863	" " ..	257 Telegraphic	20,	Council has decided to sink Turkish men-of-war rather than surrender them. Russians not to advance beyond San Stefano ..	397
864	" " ..	258 Telegraphic	20,	Porte cannot consent to cable between Tenedos and Scio, as contract has been entered into for another line	397
865	" " ..	259 Telegraphic	20,	Indemnity and territory demanded by Russia besides cession of ironclads	397
866	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	20,	Turkish remonstrance respecting proceedings of Greek troops	397
867	Lord A. Loftus ..	43 Telegraphic	20,	Suggests that Russians should promise not to occupy shores of Bosphorus	398
868	Sir E. Thornton ..	Telegraphic	20,	United States and the Conference. No official invitation yet received	398
869	To Embassies ..	Telegraphic	21,	Mr. Layard telegraphs that Russians demand surrender of fleet, and that 30,000 men should occupy Constantinople	398
870	To Lord A. Loftus and Embassies	Telegraphic	21,	Memorandum given to Count Schuvaloff as to Russian entry into Constantinople without consent of Sultan, in which case English Ambassador at St. Petersburgh will be withdrawn	398
871	Mr. Taylour Thomson	Telegraphic	21,	Shah's visit to Europe	399
872	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	21,	"Times" correspondent telegraphs from Sofia that there has been no attack	399
873	Lord Odo Russell ..	Telegraphic	21,	Documents referred to in Prince Bismarck's speech. Specifies what they were ..	399
874	To Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	21,	Greek troops will not cross frontier again ..	399
875	To Embassies ..	Telegraphic	21,	Memorandum from Count Schuvaloff. Assurances respecting Dardanelles and Gallipoli .	399
876	To Lord A. Loftus .	Telegraphic	21,	Is Colonel Schelika employed to torpedo the Dardanelles?	400
877	To Embassies ..	Telegraphic	21,	Turkish fleet. Substance of No. 863 ..	400
878	Sir H. Elliot ..	36 Telegraphic	21,	Russian demands. Has communicated to Count Andrassy. His inquiry as to an advance of money from Her Majesty's Government .	400
879	" " ..	37 Telegraphic	21,	Peace Preliminaries. Austrian information is derived from Count Zichy .	400
880	" " ..	38 Telegraphic	21,	Turkish fleet. Same information from Count Zichy	400
881	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	21,	Russian demands. Conversation with M. Depretis	401
882	To Mr. Layard ..	260	21,	Approval of Mr. Blunt's conduct at Adrianople	401
883	" " ..	262	21,	Greece. Extends No. 874	401
884	" " ..	260	21,	Dardanelles and Gallipoli. Sends No. 896. Extends No. 875	401
885	To Lord A. Loftus ..	176	21,	Sends Memorandum as to Russian entry into Constantinople without consent of Sultan. (No. 895.) Extends No. 870	402

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
886	To Lord A. Loftus ..	182	Feb. 21, 1878	Turkish fleet. Extends No. 877	402
887	" " ..	182	21,	Ditto Ditto	402
888	To Sir H. Elliot ..	143 Confidential	21,	Russian demands. Memorandum from Count Beust	402
889	" " ..	144	21,	Turkish fleet. Sends No. 393. Extends No. 877	403
890	" " ..	147	21.	Servia. Memorandum given to Count Schouvaloff (No. 897). Extends No. 870. ..	403
891	To Mr. Wyndham ..	29	21,	Greek invasion. Approves his proceedings ..	403
892	" " ..	30	21,	Greek invasion. Entirely approves his language to M. Delyanni	403
893	" " ..	31	21,	Adrianople. To bring to notice of Greek Government the valuable services rendered by their Consul	403
894	To Consul-General White	4	21.	Prince Tcherniaieff's scheme for Bulgaria. Thanks for report respecting	404
895	To Acting Consul Freeman	1	21,	Approves sending Vice-Consul Cooper to Novi-Bazar	404
896	Count Schouvaloff ..	Memo.	21,	Assurances respecting Dardanelles and Gallipoli	404
897	To Count Schouvaloff.	Memo.	21.	Attitude of Her Majesty's Government in the event of Russian entry into Constantinople without consent of Sultan	404
898	Mr. Layard ..	201	9,	Report of Russian advance. Explains why same news was not received by other Governments	404
899	" " ..	202	9,	Mistake in cypher between the words "Sultan" and "Congress" not to be attributed to the Embassy	405
900	" " ..	204	11,	Passage of the Dardanelles. Grand Duke threatens to occupy Constantinople. (See No. 911)	405
901	" " ..	205 Most Secret	9,	Grand Duke's conversation with Server Pasha. His view of the situation	405
902	" " ..	207 Confidential	9,	Mr. Wyndham appears to confirm information that Germany wishes to push Greece into war with Turkey	407
903	" " ..	208	9,	Greece. Has urged Porte to stop military operations, as the Greek troops are to be withdrawn	407
904	" " ..	209 Confidential	9,	Plenipotentiaries have returned from Adrianople. Peace Preliminaries to be settled at once. Outrages in Roumelia upon Mussulman population	408
905	" " ..	210	9,	Turkish Government property on the Danube to be left in charge of Russians, if not removed within a certain time	408
906	" " ..	212	10,	Passage of the Dardanelles by British fleet. Account of his proceedings in regard to ..	409
907	" " ..	213	11,	Adrianople. Mr. Blunt has been thanked for maintaining order	411
908	" " ..	214	11,	Conduct of Cossacks and Bulgarians near Varna. Exodus of Mussulmans	412
909	" " ..	216 Secret	11,	Memorandum obtained secretly respecting the conduct of the peace negotiations	412
910	" " ..	217	11,	Circassian excesses. Porte intends to disarm them and transport them into Asia Minor ..	415
911	" " ..	218 Confidential	11,	Passage of Dardanelles by British fleet. Textual copy of Grand Duke's reply to the announcement by Server Pasha. (See No. 900)	416
912	" " ..	219	12,	Passage of Dardanelles. Emperor's message to Sultan	416
913	" " ..	221 Secret	13,	No secret Treaty yet concluded between Russia and Turkey	416
914	" " ..	222	13,	Dreadful state of country traversed by Plenipotentiaries. Report of an eye-witness ..	417
915	" " ..	223	13,	Has asked for instructions in event of Russian occupation of Constantinople	418
916	" " ..	225	13,	Ill-treatment of English doctors by the Russians. Despatch from Consul Blunt ..	418
917	" " ..	226	14,	Dissolution of Turkish Parliament	419
918	" " ..	227	14,	Greece. M. Comduriotti's delay in informing Porte of withdrawal of troops	420
919	" " ..	228	14,	Passage of Dardanelles by British fleet. Further account of his proceedings in regard to ..	421
920	" " ..	229	14,	Despatches from Salonica and Rodosto. Greek insurgents on Mount Pelion. Notes respecting insurrection in Thessaly	426
921	" " ..	230	15,	Respecting suggested Russian Proclamation to fugitive Mussulman population. Remarks on	431

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
922	Mr. Layard ..	231	Feb. 15, 1878	Refugees. Despatch from Consul at Smyrna and Consular Agent at Pandorma ..	432
923	" " ..	232	15,	Varna. Report from Captain Hammond, of Her Majesty's ship "Torch"	433
924	" " ..	234	15.	Advance and concentration of Russian troops at Rodosto. Despatch from Vice-Consul Dissi	434
925	" " ..	235	15.	Turkish troops concentrated on second line of defence. Moukhtar Pasha in command ..	434
926	Mr. Wyndham ..	97	11.	Greek troops all returned to Greek territory ..	435
927	" " ..	98	11.	No desertions. All the troops had obeyed orders to withdraw according to M. Delyanni.	435
928	" " ..	99 Confidential	11,	Conversation with the Russian Minister respecting a cession of territory to Greece to tranquillize her	435
929	" " ..	100 [Confidential]	12,	Respecting dispute between Greece and Porte in 1870, about some territory near Agrapha See No. 928	436
930	" " ..	102	12.	Recall of Greek troops. Greek Representative at Constantinople is to inform Porte at once. Measures respecting the irregular bands under consideration	436
931	" " ..	103	13.	Recall of Greek troops and irregular bands. This despatch amplifies No. 930	437
932	" " ..	104	13,	Arms and ammunition conveyed by Greek steamers to raise insurrection in Turkish provinces. Report from Her Majesty's Consul at Patras	437
933	" " ..	105	13,	Irregular bands. All legal means will be used to prevent their leaving Greece	438
934	" " ..	107	13,	Amplifying No. 933	438
935	" " ..	108	13,	Alleged outrages by Circassians and Gheghs. Reminds M. Delyanni that Mr. Layard is to bring to notice of Porte	439
936	" " ..	109	14,	Liberation of some Albanian exiles from Chalcis demanded by Photiades Bey ..	439
937	" " ..	110	14,	Invasion of Epirus. Greek Government disclaims any intention of	439
938	Sir C. Scbright ..	9	15,	Is living in a most extreme state of the Gulf of Arta. Copies of two reports from Santa Maura	440
939	Admiralty	Secret	22,	Instructions to Admiral Hornby in case Russians attempt to occupy Gallipoli	441
940	Mr. Layard ..	256 Telegraphic	20,	Suggests that Her Majesty's Government should come to a decision. Thinks we have only two courses left: either to withdraw ships from Sea of Marmora or to take Turkish ships	442
941	" " ..	261 Telegraphic	21,	Conditions of Peace. Additional details ..	442
942	Lord A. Loftus ..	44 Telegraphic	22,	Expulsion of Mussulmans from Bulgaria. Russian demand for. Denied by "Agence Russe"	443
943	To Mr. Layard	Telegraphic	22.	Instructions to Admiral Hornby in regard to Gallipoli. See No. 939	443
944	To Prince Jon Ghika	..	22,	Memorandum on Roumania. Receipt of note of the 17th instant	443
945	To Admiralty ..	..	22.	"Coulcurire" Report from Colonel Sibeene. Better she should remain at Sulina at present	443
946	Mr. Wyndham ..	111	16;	Insurrection in Thessaly spreading. Extracts from the "Stea"	443
947	Sir A. Paget ..	150 Confidential	18.	M. Depretis denies that Germany influenced Italy in not sending ships to Constantinople. Italian ships going from Salonica to Besika Bay	444
948	" " ..	151	17.	Conference. Italian Ambassador at St. Petersburgh will urge the immediate assembling of.	445
949	" " ..	154 Secret Confidential	19.	Conversation with the King respecting present state of affairs in Europe produced by Russian successes in Turkey ..	445
950	" " ..	157 Confidential	19,	Austria and Italy. Respecting the relations between	447
951	" " ..	156	20,	An additional credit for the army. Extracts from the "Italie" respecting a demand for. Number of men Italy could place in the field of the first line	448
952	" " ..	161	20,	Congress at Baden Baden early in March. Austria has proposed and Italy has assented to	448

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
953	Sir A. Paget ..	161	Feb. 20, 1878	Russian assurances respecting Gallipoli and Bulair. Satisfaction of M. Deprotis at hearing	449
954	M. Delyannl to M. Gennadius	Telegraphic	20,	Fresh Greek invasion of Turkish territory. Telegram from Server Pasha, and reply ..	449
955	Lord Lyons ..	187	22,	Roumania and Congress. Its independence. Incloses Circular by Roumanian Government to its Representatives abroad	449
956	Mr. Layard ..	262 Telegraphic	22,	Expulsion of Mussulmans. No doubt that it was demanded by General Ignatieff ..	451
957	Consul-General Stanley	Telegraphic	23,	"Muscovite" steamer ordered not to leave for Constantinople as advertised. Armistice conditions were telegraphed to German Chancellor on the 2nd instant	451
958	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	23,	Where are the Turkish ships, and what is passing in the Black Sea?	451
959	" " ..	Telegraphic	23,	To report names of Turkish ironclads in Constantinople waters	451
960	" " ..	Telegraphic	23,	Telegraph route through Lagos. To urge Porte to consent to landing of cable at Tenedos ..	452
961	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic Confidential	23,	Russian fleet in Baltic and Black Sea. To report respecting condition of, &c. ..	452
962	To Sir H. Elliot ..	152	23,	Stipulations demanded by Russia. Respecting Extract No. 961	452
963	To Lord A. Loftus ..	187	23,		452
964	Lord A. Loftus ..	287	19,	Ill-treatment of British doctors. Regret of Grand Duke. An inquiry has been ordered	453
965	" " ..	241	19,	Occupation of Sulina by the Russians ..	454
966	Mr. Vivian ..	Telegraphic	23,	Czar will not receive emissary from Sultan. Russian troops are to be allowed to enter Constantinople. News received by Viceroy .	454
967	Mr. Layard ..	263 Telegraphic	23,	Peace is expected to be signed at San Stefano. Turkish Plenipotentiaries are to agree to all Russian demands, except surrender of ironclads.	454
968	" " ..	264 Telegraphic	24,	Roumania wishes to come to a direct and separate understanding with Turkey	455
969	Lord A. Loftus ..	47 Telegraphic	24,	Gallipoli and Bulair. "Agence Russe" states that the agreement has improved relations between England and Russia	455
970	" " ..	48 Telegraphic	24,	Dr. Nichols and Mr. Georges are to be released. Mehemet Bey is at Bucharest	455
971	Consul-General Stanley	Telegraphic	24,	"Grand Duke Constantine" has left Sebastopol, probably with torpedoes	455
972	Acting Consul Freeman	6	6,	Armistice has been notified to the Governor-General of Bosnia. Inflammatory article in the "Bosna" against Russia and Servia ..	455
973	Sir H. Elliot ..	97 Confidential	9,	Alleged Secret Treaty between Russia and Turkey. Uneasiness of Austro-Hungarian Government	456
974	" " ..	99	9,	British fleet ordered to Constantinople. Austrian Government have not yet decided as to sending ships	457
975	" " ..	101 Confidential	9,	Conference. Count Andrassy abstains from expressing opinion about Vienna as the place of meeting until Russian answer is formally communicated	457
976	" " ..	103	11,	Conference. Russian answer communicated. Count Andrassy ready to defer to Prince Gortchakow's objection to a great capital ..	457
977	" " ..	105	11,	British fleet ordered to Constantinople. Conversation with Count Andrassy respecting ..	458
978	" " ..	106 Confidential	11,	Roumania determined not to cede Bessarabia ..	458
979	" " ..	108	13,	Conference. Russian answer makes no reserve or condition except as to place of meeting	459
980	" " ..	112 Confidential	13,	British fleet ordered to Constantinople. Austria has applied for a Firman	459
981	" " ..	116	15,	Instructions to Count Zichy to apply for a Firman were positive and not discretionary..	460
982	" " ..	118 Confidential	15,	Has pointed out how desirable it is that Austria should send even one ship to Constantinople	460
983	" " ..	120 Confidential	18,	Is surprised to hear that General Ignatieff last year spoke of Ahmed Vefyk Pasha as the only Turk fit to be Grand Vizier	461

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
984	Sir H. Elliot ..	121	Feb. 18, 1878	Delay in armistice negotiations said to be owing to Russian telegraph clerks	461
985	" " ..	129	18,	Count Andrassy ready to propose a Congress to be held at Baden Baden soon after the beginning of March	462
986	" " ..	130	18,	Porte hesitates to grant a Firman to Austria for two ships	462
987	" " ..	132 Secret	19,	Count Andrassy seems more impressed with the risk to which Austria would be exposed in a war with Russia	462
988	" " ..	135	20,	If Bosnia is isolated, Austria will be obliged to annex it	463
989	" " ..	136	20,	Count Andrassy confirms the above view ..	464
990	" " ..	138	20,	Indignation of Count Andrassy at Russian demand for expulsion of Mussulmans from Bulgaria	464
991	" " ..	140	20,	Count Andrassy considers the new Bulgarian scheme utterly inadmissible. If Russians occupy Constantinople, he says Powers should send up their ships	464
992	" " ..	142 Confidential	20,	Views of Count Andrassy respecting attending the Congress himself	465
993	" " ..	143 Confidential	20,	Count Andrassy entirely satisfied with language of Prince Bismarck	465
994	Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot	10	20,	Answer to interpellations on Eastern affairs in the Diet. Tone of the Hungarian journals is fiercely warlike	466
995	Consul St. John ..	10	14,	Austro-Hungarian ironclad "Don Juan" ordered to Syra	466
996	Lord Odo Russell ..	117	16,	Neutrality of Germany in event of war between England and Russia may be counted on	466
997	" " ..	119 Secret	17,	Neutrality of Germany, &c. Conversation with Prince Bismarck	466
998	" " ..	122 Confidential	18,	German Government have decided not to ask for Firman for passage of German ships to Constantinople	468
999	" " ..	124 Secret	18,	Will endeavour to ascertain nature of alleged German mediation between Austria and Russia	469
1000	" " ..	128	20,	Prince Bismarck's speech has produced an excellent impression at Berlin	469
1001	" " ..	130 Secret	20,	Will endeavour to elicit further statements from Prince Bismarck. Germany would probably desert Austria if triple alliance broke up	469
1002	" " ..	132 Confidential	20,	Germany accepts Austrian proposal for a Conference at Baden Baden at the beginning of March. Russia now suggests a later date ..	470
1003	Sir C. Sebright ..	Extract	21,	Reports from Durazzo and Avlona. Passage of suspicious characters	470
1004	Mr. Layard ..	265 Telegraphic	24,	Occupation of San Stefano by Russians. Russians have passed the neutral zone	470
1005	" " ..	266 Telegraphic	25,	Secret Treaty supposed to have been concluded between Russia and Turkey	471
1006	Lord A. Loftus ..	49 Telegraphic	25,	Grand Duke Nicholas has reported his arrival at San Stefano	471
1007	" " ..	50 Telegraphic	25,	Alleged Russian answer to British Memorandum of the 21st February respecting a Russian occupation of Constantinople ..	471
1008	" " ..	51 Telegraphic	25,	Russian Baltic and Black Sea fleets ..	471
1009	" " ..	53 Telegraphic	25,	Ill-treatment of British doctors. As Grand Duke has expressed regret, need further representations be made?	471
1010	Lord Odo Russell ..	1 Telegraphic	25,	Further conversation with Prince Bismarck .	472
1011	Sir H. Elliot ..	39 Telegraphic	25,	Nothing is known of the suggestion that Ministers for Foreign Affairs would be more likely to attend a Conference at Berlin	472
1012	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	25,	Greek Government deny that Greek regulars have crossed frontier. Orders have been given to stop armed bands	472
1013	To Consul-General Eldridge	Telegraphic	25,	To report as to alarm and danger caused by arrival of Circassian emigrants ..	472
1014	To Mr. Layard ..	290	25,	Greek neutrality. Telegram from Greek Government respecting	473
1015	M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius ..	..	15,	Crete. Progress of the insurrection. Measures of Ottoman authorities with a view of maintaining order	473

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1016	" " ..	..	Feb. 15, 1878	Details of atrocities in Thessaly. Protest of Greek Government against them	474
1017	M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius	..	15,	Further atrocities	475
1018	" " ..	..	15,	Insurrection in Thessaly. Decrees of insurrectionary Committees	476
1019	Mr. Layard ..	267 Telegraphic	25,	Delay in signature of Peace. Russians still demand ironclads	477
1020	" " ..	269 Telegraphic	25,	Destination of Turkish fleet. Respecting ..	478
1021	" " ..	271 Telegraphic	26,	Alleged execution of Polish refugees. Difficulty in obtaining evidence respecting	478
1022	Mr. Thornton ..	Telegraphic	27,	Shah's visit to Russia	478
1023	Mr. Fawcett ..	Telegraphic	25,	Return of numbers of British subjects in Constantinople	478
1024	Lord Odo Russell ..	2 Telegraphic	26,	Prince Bismarck favourable to Russian policy. Ideas attributed to him	478
1025	" " ..	3 Telegraphic	26,	Prince Gortchakow's reply to Prince Bismarck respecting Conference	479
1026	Consul-General Eldridge	Telegraphic	26,	Circassian refugees at Beyrout. No cause for alarm	479
1027	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	26,	Ill-treatment of English doctors. Approves abstaining from communicating further papers ..	479
1028	Sir H. Elliot ..	40 Telegraphic	26,	Secret Treaty. Nothing heard from Constantinople respecting	479
1029	" " ..	41 Telegraphic	26,	Delegations. Count Andrassy's hopes with regard to financial powers	479
1030	" " ..	43 Telegraphic	26,	No private correspondence between Austrian Emperor and Emperor of Russia. It is denied	479
1031	Consul Sanderson ..	Telegraphic	26,	Torpedoes passing Ibraila	480
1033	To Consul-General Eldridge	2	26,	Bulgarian prisoners at Acre. Approves his and M. Abela's proceedings	480
1034	Vice-Consul Jago ..	1	6,	Fighting with Druses in Syria	480
1035	Consul-General Fawcett	Confidential	13,	Ill-treatment of prisoners and others by the Russians in Roumelia. Deposition of Dr. Leslie and Mr. Bell	481
1036	Lord A. Loftus ..	249	22,	Expulsion of Mussulmans from Bulgaria. "Agence Russe" denies that Russia demanded	482
1037	Mr. Layard ..	272 Telegraphic	27,	Steamer "Grand Duke Constantine" supposed to be placing torpedoes in Bay of Bourgas ..	483
1038	" " ..	273 Telegraphic	27,	Russian demands. 15,000 Russians at San Stefano	483
1039	" " ..	274 Telegraphic	27,	Delay in negotiations. Clauses regarding Bulgaria accepted	483
1040	" " ..	275 Telegraphic	27,	Delays in telegraphic communication. Respecting	484
1041	Sir A. Paget ..	1 Telegraphic	27,	Italian views of Russian policy, and of course to be pursued by England	484
1042	Consul Sanderson ..	Telegraphic	27,	Turkish flotilla coming down the Danube ..	484
1043	Consul-General Stanley	Telegraphic	27,	"Grand Duke Constantine" took torpedoes from Sebastopol	484
1044	Consul Sandwith ..	Telegraphic	27,	Fighting in Crete	484
1045	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	27,	It is essential that Her Majesty's Government should be informed of Terms of Peace ..	485
1046	Sir H. Elliot ..	44 Telegraphic	27,	No truth in concentration of Russian troops on Austrian frontier	485
1047	To Mr. Layard ..	293	27,	Turkey and Greece. Approves representations	485
1048	" " ..	294	27,	Adrianople. Entirely concurs in approval of Mr. Blunt	485
1049	" " ..	295	27,	Passage of Dardanelles. Entirely approves proceedings	485
1050	" " ..	296	27,	Circassian evacuation. Approves representations	486
1051	To Sir H. Elliot ..	167	27,	Particulars respecting Russian demands ..	486
1052	To Consul Kirby Green	4	27,	Approves advice to the Governor-General to withdraw Bashi-Bazouks from Mirdicia ..	486
1053	" " ..	5	27,	Conveyance of grain to Montenegro. Approves his steps to obtain	486
1054	Consul Kirby Green ..	22	17,	Cruelty of Turks in suppressing Mirdite insurrection	487
1055	" " ..	23	17,	Violation of Armistice. Demarcation Commission	486
1056	Consul St. John ..	11	19,	Russian officers on Albanian coast	488
1057	Acting Consul Barker.	9	20,	Affairs at Salonica and Cavalla. Respecting insurrection in Thessaly	489
1058	Sir E. Thornton ..	Telegraphic	28,	Russian Minister gone to New York to contract for 100 lay torpedoes	490

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1059	Mr. Layard ..	278 Telegraphic	28,	Russian demands. Prime Minister speaks more hopefully. Demand for cession of ironclads abandoned	490
1060	To Mr. Layard	Telegraphic	28,	To keep the Admiral informed respecting torpedoes	491
1061	To Mr. Layard .	301	Feb. 26, 1878	Error in cipher telegram between the words "Sultan" and "Conference." Sighing, lowering and saddening the minds of Her Majesty's Ministers	491
1062	To Mr. Wyndham ..	34	28,	Withdrawal of Greek troops. Appears to be proceeding	491

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. *March* 1878.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

No. 1.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 1.)

(No. 8. Political.)

My Lord,

Scutari, January 20, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copies of five despatches addressed to Mr. Layard on the subject of the wrongly-reported armistice and concerning the fall of Dulcigno.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Scutari, January 16, 1878.

IN acknowledging the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 14th instant, I have the honour to report that Ali Saib Pasha has received a further communication from the Voïvoda Vorbitza declaring that no armistice exists, and that active hostilities are progressing as heretofore.

Notwithstanding, Ali Sahib Pasha has not yet been informed by the Seraskier that the armistice was announced by mistake.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Scutari, January 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that some of the inhabitants of Dulcigno who formed part of the late garrison of Antivari, having now returned home, are endeavouring to induce their fellow-townsmen to yield without resistance should the Montenegrins approach the place.

To-day a general attack on the Turkish positions has been made along the whole of the Montenegrin frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Scutari, January* 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that during the whole of to-day very heavy artillery fire has been audible, and that the Montenegrins are said to be drawing towards the Turkish force posted at Gorica, six miles distant from Scutari.

The enemy has also surrounded Duleigno, which place is not in a position to make a successful defence.

The Porte has only to-day informed the authorities here that it had announced to them the conclusion of an armistice under a misconception.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Scutari, January* 20, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that it is said Duleigno was taken by the Montenegrins yesterday, and they therefore may be expected to march on Scutari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 5 in No. 1.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Scutari, January* 20, 1878.

THE capture of Duleigno occurred on the 18th, and not yesterday.

The Redif battalion of Dumah, near Damascus, surrendered in a body to the Montenegrins; and only a portion of the remaining battalion, composing the garrison of Duleigno, was able, with some of the inhabitants, to escape to the beach and embark on board the Turkish vessels of war.

Unless the Porte comprehends at once that the force gathered at Gorica is inadequate for the proper defence of Scutari, owing to the demoralizing effect produced by the series of Montenegrin successes, and directs Ali Saib Pasha to bring the troops from Podgoritza and Spuz to this, it must prepare itself for discomfiture.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 2.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 9. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January* 20, 1878.

WITH reference to my Political despatches Nos. 6 and 7 of the 13th and 14th instant, I have the honour to report that the authorities assure me they have received no explanation from the Seraskier regarding the misapprehension which led them to place themselves in a rather ridiculous position with the Montenegrins concerning the alleged armistice.

The Porte has limited itself to sending on the 18th instant a telegram stating that no armistice had been concluded.

On the other hand, the Montenegrins were very careful that the Turks should have no cause to say that they had taken advantage of the misunderstanding under which they had laboured, and, consequently, sent on the 15th instant flags of truce to all the Turkish

outposts and forts reiterating the non-existence of an armistice, and announcing their intention of pursuing hostilities with the greatest activity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 3.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 11. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January* 21, 1878.

ALI SAIB PASHA has informed me, and his account has been confirmed from other sources, that early on the morning of the 18th instant a large Montenegrin force made its appearance in the neighbourhood of Duleigno.

The Turkish force, which consisted of two battalions of Redifs, one Syrian and the other Albanian, the inhabitants of Duleigno, and a few other Bashi-Bazouks, occupied very advantageous positions on the adjoining heights.

A violent encounter ensued, and the Turks being assisted, when the locality permitted by the fire from some of their iron-clads in the bays, the Montenegrins, towards the middle of the day, were forced to retire; but in the afternoon they suddenly returned, when the Syrian Redifs laid down their arms, and the other battalion had to endeavour to effect a hasty retreat to the beach.

A portion of this battalion is said to have been embarked, together with some of the Dulcignotes, on board the iron-clads, and the rest of the troops and inhabitants had to surrender.

The Turkish authorities assert that the whole of Duleigno has now been burnt, and that the Montenegrins have retired from it, but probably they wish, by spreading this report, to lead the Scutarines to believe that submission means utter ruin.

Ali Saib Pasha has admitted to me that he does not feel at all confident of being able to offer a successful resistance at Gorica, as his troops are greatly demoralized by the capture of the battalions which had left them only a few days before the defence of Duleigno.

This measure had been taken, against the wish of Ali Saib Pasha, at the instance of the Dulcignotes, and after a stormy council of war. His Excellency is distracted by almost peremptory demands on the part of the different threatened localities for assistance, and every measure he thinks it needful to take gives rise to telegraphic complaints against him to the Porte.

Whilst he is convinced the only chance of successfully resisting the advance of the Montenegrins on Scutari, and for preventing a renewal of the insurrection in Miridieh, is by accepting the inevitable, and withdrawing from Spuz and Podgoritza, the inhabitants of the latter place have telegraphed to Constantinople accusing him of traitorous conduct for having already weakened their garrison. Consequently, his Excellency says, the Montenegrins will have the advantage of overwhelming his battalions one after the other, and snatching from the Ottoman dominions a much larger slice of territory than would have otherwise had to be accorded on peace being made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 4.

Count Beust to Count Andrassy.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Beust, February 1.)

(Télégraphique.)
(Confidentielle.) *Le* 28 (?) *Janvier*, 1878.

LORD DERBY me dit qu'il venait de recevoir de Sir H. Elliot une communication au sujet de laquelle il ne se trouvait pas encore en mesure de se prononcer au nom du Gouvernement puisqu'elle n'avait pas encore été soumise au Cabinet, mais qu'il désirait avoir une conversation particulière ("private") avec moi. Elliot, dit-il, mande que le Comte Andrassy s'oppose fermement à ce que la Russie vide des questions dans lesquelles les autres Puissances sont intéressées. Sur ce point je suis parfaitement d'accord, mais le Comte Andrassy demande aussi, si dans de certaines éventualités l'Angleterre est résolue à faire valoir, conjointement avec l'Autriche-Hongrie, cette opposition, au besoin, par la force

(" to enforce "). A ce sujet je ne vous dis encore que mon opinion personnelle. S'agit-il d'une question comme celle des Dardanelles je crois bien que le pays serait prêt à faire la guerre, mais sans une stipulation équivalente de la part de l'Autriche-Hongrie il serait difficile d'en présumer autant lorsqu'il s'agit de l'indépendance de la Servie ou de l'autonomie de la Bulgarie.

Lord Derby dit ensuite que le moment n'était peut-être pas encore venu pour cette même question. Il n'était pas exclu que la Russie soumette ces différents points aux Puissances et alors celles-ci avaient à examiner en premier lieu dans quelle mesure ces propositions devaient être ou acceptées ou refusées.

No. 5.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 79.)
My Lord,

Paris, January 30, 1878.

I HAD late last night the honour to receive your Lordship's instructions to communicate to the French Government the declaration of Her Majesty's Government respecting the invalidity of arrangements between Turkey and Russia calculated to modify European Treaties.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a *note verbale* which in execution of that instruction I communicated to M. Waddington this morning, and respecting which I had some conversation with him this afternoon.

M. Waddington said that it would be necessary to consult his colleagues, before expressing, on behalf of the French Government, an opinion on the contents of my *note verbale*. He promised, however, to bring the matter before the Marshal President and the Council of Ministers without delay.

He proceeded to observe that the natural corollary to the declaration of Her Majesty's Government would be the assembling of a European Conference; and he added that the substance of the information possessed by him on that subject was that Russia and Germany were decidedly opposed to a Conference, and that even Austria was inclined to endeavour to make satisfactory arrangements by other means, before having recourse to one.

In conclusion M. Waddington told me that he had not received intelligence that the armistice between Russia and Turkey had been signed—in fact that he was entirely without information respecting the armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Note Verbale.

WHILST recognizing as binding between the two belligerents any arrangements made by the Russian and Turkish Delegates at Kyzanlik for the conclusion of an armistice and the settlement of the bases of peace, Her Majesty's Government declare that, in so far as these arrangements are calculated to modify European Treaties and to affect general and British interests, they are unable to recognize in them any validity unless they are made the subject of a formal agreement among the Parties to the Treaty of Paris.

This view of the case is entirely based upon Treaties, and especially upon the Treaty of London of the 13th March, 1871, and Her Majesty's Government hope that it will receive the assent of France and of each of the other Powers.

January 30, 1878.

No. 6.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 80. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Paris, January 30, 1878.

IN addition to what I have reported in my immediately preceding despatch, M. Waddington made unofficially and confidentially some remarks respecting the

declaration of Her Majesty's Government and respecting the question of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles.

He said that the principles on which the Declaration was founded appeared to him to be incontrovertible; but that he must consider carefully to what extent an adherence to this Declaration on the part of France might be held to pledge her with regard to a Conference or to other measures for giving practical effect to it.

Concerning the Straits, he said that his own individual opinion was that the best arrangement for France was that specified in the Treaty of 1871, that is to say, that they should be closed, as a rule, but that the Sultan should have a right to open them in certain emergencies. The next best arrangement, he conceived, would be that they should be closed altogether. It would not, he thought, suit France that a Russian fleet should be continually popping into the Mediterranean; and, on the other hand, he would confess that he would rather the English fleet should not have too easy access to the Black Sea, lest it should some day take the French fleet in with it. He thought that France and England would be more likely to avoid disputes with Russia if they were prevented from coming into contact with her in the Black Sea. He begged me, however, to remember that all this was mere speculation, and was to be taken as no more than an expression of ideas which occurred to him personally at the moment.

M. Waddington added that he had heard, but not on official authority, that the intention of Russia was to make her own arrangements for herself with Turkey respecting the Straits, but to leave the Porte free to make the same arrangements with the other European Powers.

I pointed out that this plan was distinctly in contradiction with the Declaration of Her Majesty's Government as to the invalidity of arrangements between Russia and Turkey calculated to modify European Treaties.

M. Waddington assented to this; and I proceeded to observe that it would, moreover, be entirely incompatible with the assurances of Russia that she would not attempt to settle the question of the Straits apart from other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 7.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received February 1.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, January 31, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter dated 11th instant from Commander Day, of Her Majesty's ship "Condor," which has been received from Admiral Hornby, the Naval Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean, reporting the murder of three Bulgarian prisoners near Alexandretta.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Commander Day to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

Sir,

"Condor," at Alexandretta, January 11, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report for your information that three Bulgarian prisoners were landed here on Sunday, the 6th instant, from Constantinople, and on Tuesday the 8th instant they were sent from here to Aleppo under escort.

2. At the village of Belan, about fourteen miles from this, the escort pointed out to the villagers that they were Bulgarians, they were set upon by these villagers with stones and sticks, the result of which is that they have since died.

3. So far as I can ascertain no attempt has been made to bring the offenders to trial.

I deem it my duty to report the facts to you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD F. DAY, *Commander.*

No. 8.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 135.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 30, 1878.

PORTE learns that prisoners in Russia suffer much from insufficient clothing, and begs they may receive, at Porte's expense, short sheep-skins like Russian soldiers.

No. 9.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 30, 1878.

CONSUL at Rodosto telegraphs Russian reconnaissance there, marching from Usun Kepru on Keisat [? Keshan] by Gallipoli road, and is four hours distant.

No. 10.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, January* 31, 1878.

IN compliance with instructions in your telegram of yesterday I inquired to-day in writing from Prince Gortchakow whether Her Majesty's Government were authorized to communicate to the Porte the engagement given in his Memorandum of 15th instant, that Russian forces will not occupy Gallipoli if Turkish troops are not concentrated there.

Prince Gortchakow replied in the following words:—

"Yes, provided that my Memorandum be communicated in full text."

No. 11.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 139.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 31, 1878.

ACCORDING to Consul-General there are above 3,000 British subjects here, 1,482 being registered British (?) Maltese.

No. 12.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 140.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 31, 1878.

I LEARN from a very secret but trustworthy source that the Russians have demanded that the peace be signed at Constantinople, and that the Sheik-ul-Islam has been induced to give a Fetva, or Decree, that a vain resistance should not be offered to a victorious enemy. The entrance of Russians as friends will consequently not be opposed. This is confirmed to me through Member of Council of War. I have reason to suspect that communications are going on between Plenipotentiaries and Porte, but they are kept so secret that I have failed to learn their nature.

No. 13.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 141.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 31, 1878.

I HAVE just seen telegram of last night from Plenipotentiaries, who are at Adrianople, to Grand Vizier, to following effect:—

"In addition to places mentioned in previous telegram, Russians demanded Silistria and Erzeroum. Rectify your telegram in this sense and send it at once. Preliminaries of

peace are to be signed to-morrow evening. We have communicated our instructions to the Grand Duke, and are preparing the Protocol of preliminaries. Arrangement for armistice confided to a Commission of officers. The Emperor consents that question of peace and its conditions shall be treated at Adrianople instead of at Odessa. Appoint and send here at once Plenipotentiaries. Russia will do same. Restore telegraphic communication with capital, and answer at once."

No. 14.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1.)

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, January* 31, 1878.

ITALIAN Government have sounded German Government as to answer they intend to return to your Lordship's communication respecting non-recognition of any conditions agreed upon between Russia and Turkey without the assent of the Powers if they should affect European Treaties. German Minister for Foreign Affairs replied that your Lordship's communication had been submitted to the Emperor, and that he must await His Majesty's pleasure before giving a positive answer.

No. 15.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, January* 31, 1878.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador tells me that he has not made to the French Government any declaration similar to that of Her Majesty's Government, respecting invalidity of arrangements concluded without the participation of the European Powers.

No. 16.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February* 1, 1878.

IT is rumoured here that the causes of delay in our receiving intelligence respecting the armistice are that Russians require the surrender of the Ottoman fleet; that they decline to sign armistice until the fleet has been actually transferred to a Russian port; and that in the meantime they have bound Turks to secrecy by the most stringent threats.

No. 17.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 1, 1878, 12·55 p.m.

MUSURUS PASHA has just communicated a telegram from the Porte, stating that the general bases of the armistice and peace were to be signed yesterday at Adrianople.

Can you confirm this news?

No. 18.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 1, 1878, [illegible] p.m.

COMMUNICATE to Russian Government following telegram just received from Mr. Layard:—

"Porte learns that prisoners in Russia suffer much from insufficient clothing, and begs they may receive at Porte's expense short sheep-skins like Russian soldiers."

No. 19.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 1, 1878.

COUNT BEUST has communicated a telegram from Count Andrassy, relative to the Austrian declaration to Russia as to the peace preliminaries. Count Andrassy says they have gone further than England, as they have not only insisted on the necessity of the Signatory Powers sanctioning the conditions, but also on their right to alter them if they had not received their sanction beforehand. They will insist upon a Conference, embracing all the questions at issue. They have told Prince Gortchakow that the policy of the Austrian Government would be approved by the country only on the condition that it should be shown by means of the Conference that the legitimate influence of Austria-Hungary on the peace negotiations is safeguarded in regard to her double *status* as neighbouring State and Signatory Power.

The Russian answer to the above was as follows:—

"Prince Gortchakow recognizes perfectly that the conditions of peace accepted by Turkey, which are of European interest, are not definitive before having received the sanction of Europe. Russia has no objection to a Conference, and will leave the initiative of summoning it to Austria-Hungary."

Count Andrassy expresses his readiness to come beforehand to a confidential agreement with Her Majesty's Government respecting the details of the conditions of peace which we shall have to insist upon, including the question of the Dardanelles. Austria stands by her seven points. Her Majesty's Government will see that they are not summoned before the tribunal of the three Emperors, but that they will be in a position to speak with the full weight of the voice of England, and in the interest of Austria as well as their own. In this way time will be gained to come to an agreement about an eventual active co-operation to prevent any injury to our respective interests. Every step taken by England to show her determination to protect her own interests will tend to strengthen her position at the Conference.

No. 20.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 1, 1878.

THE Turkish Ambassador has received a telegram from the Porte, saying that it had at last heard from its Delegates from Adrianople, where they expected to sign the preliminaries yesterday.

No. 21.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1, 5·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Rome, February* 1, 1878, 4 P.M.

I HAVE just seen M. Depretis. He is convinced that Russians intend to occupy Constantinople, and he would regard humiliation of doing so, even temporarily, as most seriously menacing to Italian interests, which he considers identical with those of England. The settlement of the question of the Straits would then be practically in the hands of Russia. He wishes to act entirely with us, but deems the consent of Austria and, if possible, of France indispensable. He asks if Her Majesty's Government can thoroughly rely on Austria. He does not fear the opposition of Germany in this case. At all events, he says, it is impossible to wait for Prince Bismarck's decisions. The crisis is immediate, and it is necessary to lay down some course of policy and to follow it at once. I feel convinced that if Austria and France, or Austria alone, will join England, we may rely upon Italy. M. Depretis begs for most frequent and frank communication on our part, and promises the same.

He is to see the French Ambassador this afternoon, and will, I believe, speak in the same sense as he has done to me. He fears a secret understanding between the Turks and Russians as to occupation of Constantinople, which he believes would be fatal to

Turkish rule in Europe and also to European interests, and in such a case he thinks we ought to settle what is to replace Turks which shall not be Russian.

Please telegraph as soon as possible the language I am to hold.

M. Depretis confirms Count Beust's account of the communications between Count Andrassy and Count de Robilant, as stated in your telegram of the 13th ultimo.

The Italian Government agree to the principle of the Treaty rights of Europe being reserved to the Conference; it is only a question whether it would be expedient at this moment to make a declaration to this effect at St. Petersburgh. I shall, however, probably receive official answer either to-night or to-morrow.

No. 22.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 1, 1878.

I AUTHORIZE your Excellency to communicate to the Porte the text of the following Memorandum communicated by the Russian Government to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh on the 15th January:—

"The Imperial Cabinet has no intention of directing military operations upon Gallipoli, unless the Turkish regular troops should be concentrated there.

"They suppose, on their part, that in addressing to them this question, Her Britannic Majesty's Government have no intention of occupying that peninsula—a step which would not be in accordance with their neutrality, and might give rise in Constantinople to illusions which would not favour the conclusion of peace."

No. 23.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Embassies.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 1, 1878, 6 P.M.

MUSURUS PASHA has communicated a telegram from the Porte stating that the general bases of the armistice and of peace were to be signed yesterday at Adrianople.

No. 24.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Marks.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 1, 1878, 6 P.M.

REPORT by telegraph names of the four French frigates which have left Toulon for the Levant.

No. 25.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 139.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 1, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a telegram received yesterday from the Porte by Musurus Pasha, stating that the general bases of the armistice and of peace were to be signed yesterday at Adrianople, and I have to inquire whether your Excellency can confirm this news.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 26.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 141.) *Foreign Office, February* 1, 1878.

Sir,

THE following memorandum was communicated by the Russian Government to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh on the 15th ultimo:—

"The Imperial Cabinet has no intention of directing military operations upon Gallipoli, unless the Turkish regular troops should be concentrated there.

"They suppose, on their part, that in addressing to them this question, Her Britannic Majesty's Government have no intention of occupying that Peninsula, a step which would not be in accordance with their neutrality, and might give rise in Constantinople to illusions which would not favour the conclusion of peace."

I have to authorize your Excellency to communicate the text of this memorandum to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 27.

Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 149.) *Foreign Office, February* 1, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that the Turkish Ambassador communicated to me to-day a telegraphic despatch from the Ottoman Government to the effect that, according to advices received from their Plenipotentiaries, the general bases of an armistice and of peace were to be signed yesterday at Adrianople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 28.

Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 150.) *Foreign Office, February* 1, 1878.

Sir,

I INSTRUCTED Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh to ask the Russian Government whether Her Majesty's Government were authorized to communicate to the Porte the engagement given in Prince Gortchakow's Memorandum of the 15th ultimo, to the effect that the Russian forces would not occupy the Peninsula of Gallipoli if Turkish troops were not concentrated there.

A telegram has this day been received from Lord A. Loftus stating that Prince Gortchakow has given his consent, on the condition that his Memorandum should be communicated in full text to the Porte.

I have accordingly to instruct your Excellency to place a copy of the accompanying Memorandum in the hands of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 29.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 79. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 1, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, copy of a telegram from Count Andrassy,[a] containing explanations as to the attitude of the Austrian Government in regard to the Peace Preliminaries, and expressing his readiness to come to a confidential agreement with Her Majesty's Government upon the subject.

[a] No. 4.

This telegram has been communicated to me to-day by the Austrian Ambassador at this Court.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 30.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 82. Most Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 1, 1878.

Sir,

ON the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 29th instant (No. 1) stating that Count Andrassy understood me to have said to Count Beust that Her Majesty's Government had nothing to object to the autonomy proposed by Russia for Bulgaria, and that their only anxiety related to the question of the Straits, I at once telegraphed to you to deny that I had made such a statement.

I have since spoken on the subject to Count Beust, who has shown me in confidence the telegram which he had addressed to his Government after our interview, and which gives a substantially accurate account of what passed.

I alluded in the conversation in question to your Excellency's telegram of the 27th ultimo, in which you stated that Count Andrassy was anxious to know whether, if Russia persisted in acting independently of the European Powers, the Austrian Government could count upon the active assistance of England to enforce our mutual rights. I told Count Beust that I could give no reply to this question till it had been discussed by the Cabinet, and that any observations I might make must be considered as expressions of personal opinion.

I then went on to say, as Count Beust reports, that I thought this country would be prepared to vindicate its rights even by recourse to arms if the question in dispute were that of the navigation of the Straits; but that at least without some stipulation of reciprocity on the part of Austria-Hungary, it would be difficult to induce Parliament or the country to concur in the policy of a war for objects which did not, in the same degree, seem to concern British interests, such as the extent of the proposed Bulgaria. I thought it possible, however, that the occasion for such decisions might not after all arise. It was not impossible that Russia might consent to submit these different points to the Powers, and that we should have the opportunity of examining in the first place how far her proposals should be accepted or rejected.

I am unable to understand how these remarks can have been construed by Count Andrassy as implying any departure from the understanding come to between our two Governments, but my telegram of the 30th ultimo, stating that Her Majesty's Government adhere to their declaration of the 14th August last, and to all the assurances given by them, will have enabled you to reassure his Excellency on this point.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 31.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.[a]

(No. 76.) *Foreign Office, February* 1, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that Musurus Pasha has to-day communicated to me a telegram which he has received from the Porte stating that the general bases of the armistice and of peace were to be signed yesterday at Adrianople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

---

[a] Similar despatches were addressed to Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, Sir H. Elliot, and Lord A. Loftus.

No. 32.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have received information that an officer of the Hellenic army has started by land with about 300 volunteers with a view of promoting an insurrection in Turkey. He is said to be provided with money to the amount of about 2,000*l.*

I am also informed that several Greek merchant-steamers have received orders to be at the disposal of the Government.

His Majesty the King is said to be in favour of a war policy. Orders have been issued that all officers on leave are to rejoin their regiments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 33.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 25.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 19, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 17 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I was informed yesterday that another band had started with a view of promoting an insurrectionary movement in Turkey. This band is said to be under the leadership of Lieutenant Axelos, an infantry officer in the Greek army. He is reported to have with him about 300 volunteers, and to be provided with about 50,000 drachmas (1,800*l.*).

I was also informed yesterday that orders have been given by the Government to the Greek Steam Navigation Company to hold their vessels at the disposal of the Government. From inquiries which I have made as to these steamers it appears that four or five of them are waiting at Syra ready for sea. There are eight vessels belonging to the above-named Company, namely, the "Omonvia," "Karteria," "Byzantium," "Eptanisos," "Panhellinion," and "Hydra," all screw boats, and the "Iris" and "Ionia" paddle-wheel steamers.

I hear from different persons that His Majesty the King is in favour of a war policy, and the fact that all officers on leave have received orders to join their respective corps, and that troops are being concentrated at Santa Maura, Agrynium, Missolonghi, Lamia, and Chalcis are not measures to reassure those who desire to see Greece maintain a pacific attitude.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 34.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 27.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have been informed that the Greek authorities have arrested the officer respecting whom I telegraphed to your Lordship yesterday.

It is stated, in newspapers published this morning, that an insurrection has broken out in the province of Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM

No. 35.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 28.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 21, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 27 of to-day's date, I have the honour to report that I was informed yesterday that Lieutenant Axelos, an officer in the Greek army, who was on his way to Turkey with a band of volunteers, had been arrested at Chalcis. Had Lieutenant Axelos entered Turkey he would have gravely compromised the Greek Government, who no doubt desire to see insurrectionary movements take place in Thessaly and Epirus, but are anxious to avoid being compromised in promoting them.

Some of the newspapers published yesterday morning in Athens reported that an insurrection had in fact broken out in Thessaly. This news appears to have been brought by some persons who arrived on the 19th instant at Athens, as refugees from Volo.

The "Stoa" newspaper of yesterday's date states that the band of 240 men which landed in Thessaly at Platania, near Volo, under Leonidas Bulgaris, and under the military chiefs Michael Tzelios, Demetrius Exarchos, Athanari Zacharapoulo, and Nanu Constantinides, succeeded in taking possession of the villages Pronieri, Niochori, and Melassi, and adds that on their appearance the neighbouring villages Vizitza and Pinakates rose in revolt.

How far this is true I cannot say, but at any rate the "Stoa," an Athens newspaper, attributes this rising to the arrival of a band which was organized in Greece, and which was so numerous that it can hardly, I think, have left the Piræus without the cognizance of the Greek authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 36.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 30.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have given the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the substance of your Lordship's telegram of this day's date. His Excellency is going to submit it to a Cabinet Council this afternoon, but he can give me no answer to-day, as he says that there is a Ministerial crisis.

I hope to see M. Tricoupi again to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 37.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 32.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that some troops left this town for Lamia yesterday; more troops, with some artillery, are, I understand, to leave to-morrow.

Affairs are in a very critical state.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 38.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 33.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 21, 1878.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of to-day's date, in which your Lordship informs me that the Ottoman Government has received information to the effect that an attack is about to be made at once by this country upon Turkey, and that they beg Her Majesty's Government to use their good offices to prevent this fresh act of

aggression, I called upon M. Tricoupi, and put into his hands a paper on which I had written out the substance of your Lordship's telegram.

I told him that I had received no instructions from your Lordship, but that I considered the fact of your Lordship sending me the telegram in question as a proof that Her Majesty's Government was anxious that Greece should not make an attack upon Turkey, and I asked him what answer I could give your Lordship as to the policy of the Greek Government.

M. Tricoupi replied that he could not give me any answer in the name of the Government, as there was at that moment a Ministerial crisis; that there had been a Cabinet Council in the morning, and that there was to be another immediately to which he was going, and to which, he said, he would submit the paper I had given him.

M. Tricoupi made an observation to me to the effect that Her Majesty's Government appeared to have withdrawn from all intervention in the Eastern question, whereupon I called his Excellency's attention to the paragraph in Her Majesty's Speech at the opening of the Houses of Parliament, in which Her Majesty says that should hostilities be unfortunately prolonged some unexpected occurrence may render it incumbent upon her to adopt measures of precaution.

M. Tricoupi said that Turkey could hardly be said to exist any longer, and spoke with much anxiety as to the position of Greece in the present crisis.

M. Tricoupi said that he would see me again to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 39.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 36.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Ministers tendered their resignations to the King to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 40.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 23, 1878.*

IN my despatches Nos. 14 and 18 of the 11th and 16th instant respectively, I reported to your Lordship that a difference of opinion existed in the Cabinet, and that M. Zaïmis and M. Deligeorges threatened to separate themselves from their colleagues; and, in my despatch No. 33 of the 21st instant, I reported to your Lordship that M. Tricoupi had informed me that there was a Ministerial crisis.

I have now the honour to report to your Lordship that the Ministers resigned yesterday. M. Deligeorges appears to have taken the initiative in this step, and the other Ministers, finding the coalition of the different party leaders thus dissolved, also tendered their resignations to the King, which His Majesty accepted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 41.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 38.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 23, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 28 of the 20th instant, in which I reported to your Lordship the arrest of Lieutenant Axelos, while on his way to the frontiers of Turkey with a band of volunteers for the purpose of endeavouring to promote an insurrection in the provinces of Turkey bordering upon Greece, I have the honour to state that I am informed that that officer has been set at liberty, and that his arrest lasted only a short time. I am also informed that two other persons, one of whom is an official in a public

office, are busy recruiting irregular bands. The men who join these bands are provided, I am told, with a sort of uniform, in which dress many have been seen in Athens and the Piræus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 42.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 40.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a new Government has been formed under the leadership of M. Coumoundouros.

I have also the honour to state that the forwarding of troops, guns, ammunition, and stores to the frontier continues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 43.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 41. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 24, 1878.*

WITH reference to the despatch which I had the honour to address to your Lordship yesterday, marked No. 37, respecting the resignation of the Greek coalition Ministry, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have been informed that about three weeks ago the Government drew up and signed an agreement to the following effect:—

1. That no movement of the Greek army should take place without the knowledge and consent of the Ministers.

2. That no change in the international relations of Greece should be made without the consent of the Chamber.

3. That no decision should be taken in the present crisis until it was known for certain whether an armistice had been concluded or not.

Within the last fortnight His Majesty the King is said to have become exceedingly warlike in his feelings, some persons attributing this, I am told, to a communication said to have been brought by M. Braïla, Greek Minister at St. Petersburgh, who arrived from there in Athens a short time ago on leave of absence, others to influence exercised by Her Majesty the Queen, and by Russian agents in Athens. Whether these are the real causes of the great change said to have come over His Majesty of late in his political feelings I am unable to say, or whether it is the march of events in Turkey which makes His Majesty think that he must strike a blow for the Hellenic cause and for the Christians in the provinces bordering upon Greece. At any rate His Majesty is reported to have taken matters too much into his own hands, and to have given orders for the movement of troops without having previously consulted his Ministers; and this is said to have been the cause of the resignation in the first place of M. Deligeorges and of some of the other members of the Cabinet.

Before the King accepted the resignations of his Ministers he is said to have requested M. Coumoundouros to try and persuade his late colleagues to reconsider their decision and to rejoin the Cabinet; and M. Deligeorges is reported to have answered that he would do so on condition that the King would act in accordance with the Constitution ("si le Roi rentrait dans le domaine des lois").

M. Coumoundouros was not successful in his efforts, and even M. Tricoupi, who commenced in 1876 to write in favour of military preparations, and who, as I have reported from time to time to your Lordship, has held very warlike language to me, declined to rejoin the Government.

M. Coumoundouros was then requested by the King to form a Ministry, and yesterday the following Ministers took the oaths in assuming their respective offices:—

M. Coumoundouros, Premier and Minister of the Interior; M. Theodore Delyanni, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship; M. Papamichalopoulos, Minister of Finance and of Justice; M. Petinezas, War; M. Bouboulis, Marine. M. Coumoundouros and M. Delyanni are the only two Ministers who were members of the late Cabinet.

All persons with whom I have conversed are of opinion that this Cabinet is in complete accordance with the views of the King. As long as the late Government lasted I felt that there was a certain guarantee against war, as two of its members were generally said to be opposed to it, but now that there is no deterrent influence in the Cabinet, and that their Majesties the King and the Queen are said to be strongly in favour of war, I fear that Greece, unless the Chamber puts its veto upon it, may very shortly embark in an adventurous policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 44.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 43.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a letter has been received in Athens from a retired British officer who writes from Chalcis to the effect that all the Greek troops lately quartered here have been sent to Lamia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 45.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 44.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 24, 1878.*

MR. MERLIN, Her Majesty's Consul at the Piræus, was so good as to show me this morning a letter dated the 22nd instant, which he had received from a retired British naval officer at Chalcis, in which that gentleman states that all the troops which have been quartered there have been sent in steamers of the Hellenic Steam Navigation Company to Stijlida, which is the port of Lamia.

The troops are reported to have behaved exceedingly well during their stay at Chalcis.

Guns, ammunition, and military stores are being forwarded by sea to Chalcis from the Piræus. When the Greek army, however, has to depend upon land transport their difficulties will be great.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 46.

Consul St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 8. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, January 22, 1878.*

IN acknowledging the receipt of Lord Tenterden's telegram of the 17th instant, containing the Queen's Speech, I avail myself of the opportunity to express my thanks for the same, and to remark that here the utmost importance was attached to what Her Majesty might have to say at the opening of Parliament.

It is not the first time that I have had occasion to be proud of the promptness with which I have been apprised by the Foreign Office of important events.

On this occasion, moreover, my satisfaction has been enhanced by the fact that so important an event as the death of the King of Italy was not officially communicated to my Italian colleague till the tenth day after its occurrence.

Presuming that a copy of the Queen's Speech was sent me for the benefit of all those whom it might concern, I lost no time in translating and reading it to my colleagues, and to persons interested in the Eastern question, whereby I was able to form an opinion of the impression made by so important a communication.

I can safely state that the Speech—as far as I noticed—has caused unqualified satisfaction to the so-called autonomists, the military, and even the Russians, though the latter, very pardonably, winced at the last paragraph.

The only political party to whom it appeared unpalatable were the Nationalists, whose dream it is some day to form a Slav Empire, and who, having nothing to lose by a continuance of the present war, look upon the pacific, yet firm attitude of Her Majesty's Government as a menace to their hopes and aspirations.

I may here add that the same party—however ardently they may sympathize with Bosnia and Herzegovina—look upon the autonomy of Bulgaria as the death-blow to Turkey, and the sure means by which the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire in Europe can ultimately be effected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 47.

Consul St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 9. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, January 24, 1878.*

HAVING been requested by M. Duby, Private Secretary to the Prince of Montenegro, to supply him with the earliest intelligence relative to Her Majesty's speech at the opening of Parliament, I have the honour to report that on the receipt of Lord Tenterden's telegram, I at once complied with his request.

In thanking me for what I had done, M. Duby informed me that he had telegraphed my communication to His Highness, "which he thought might be useful."

M. Duby, as your Lordship is perhaps aware, is a native of Switzerland. He has travelled much, and possesses a thorough knowledge of the world.

M. Duby, moreover, bears the character of a prudent, conscientious man, and, as such, has gained the confidence of the Prince; but it is said that he shares not altogether the opinion of the people among whom fate has brought him; and I am, therefore, inclined to attach some importance to his remark regarding the effect likely to be produced by the Queen's Speech, and to presume by it that the Prince will be induced to modify his pretensions, and not carry on the war too far into the enemy's country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

P.S.—As the publicity of my communication might cause harm to M. Duby, I beg that this despatch may be considered as "confidential."

C. ST. J.

No. 48.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 50. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 25, 1878.*

I HAD an interview this morning with Count Andrassy, at which I mentioned to him secretly the orders which were sent on Wednesday last to the British fleet to enter the Dardanelles, and which were superseded by subsequent orders yesterday.

His Excellency was pleased to find the determination which Her Majesty's Government have thus shown to take active measures for the protection of English interests; but the Russian conditions of peace, which I communicated to him as they had been reported by Mr. Layard, caused him so much dissatisfaction that his observations turned principally upon them. He said they differed in several points from the information which he had himself received respecting them, and as he could hardly believe them to be correct, he requested me to give him a copy of them that they might be compared with the statements which he had received.

He said that the Russian Ambassador, who arrived some days previously from St. Petersburgh, had expressed a readiness to communicate them to him, but that he declined receiving any information respecting them until they had been officially presented to the Porte and made public. From what he has heard, however, he understands that it is intended that the question of the Dardanelles is to be settled between the belligerents, and he knows nothing of its being proposed to create a Servian Kingdom. He should like to have time to reflect upon them before expressing decided opinions upon them; but

I am convinced, from the observations which he made, that he will neither accept a Servian Kingdom nor a Bulgarian State such as Russia proposes to create.

He seemed to think also that the safest policy at present is to abstain from taking any part in the discussions between the belligerents, and to maintain steadfastly the declarations of England and Austria, that no Treaty can be valid to which Europe has not been a party. Precipitate action ought to be avoided, and Russia should not be interfered with till she has fully disclosed her intentions, when the Powers will be in a better position to intimate to her what can be permitted and what will be resisted. He added also that while the two Governments are considering that question they will have time to make arrangements as to the military and naval means which it may be expedient to adopt with a view to cause their wishes to be attended to.

Our conversation was unfortunately interrupted by a visit to his Excellency of the Archduke Albrecht, but with reference to Lord Odo Russell's information on the subject of a Conference, I asked whether it was true that he had consented to a wish, which it is alleged Russia has expressed, that one should be held. He answered that he might consider a Conference after the two Governments had protested against the Russian conditions necessary, but not a Conference for the objects for which Russia wishes to call one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 49.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 52. Secret and Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 25, 1878.*

AT an audience which the Emperor granted me to-day to receive my letters of recall, I acquainted him verbally with the conditions of peace which Russia has proposed to the Porte, and they evidently produced the same painful impression upon His Majesty which they had done on Count Andrassy, as I have reported in another despatch of this date.

His Majesty said that Russia appeared to have entirely forgotten what she had promised before the commencement of the war; and it seemed strange that the Emperor, of whose personal loyalty he had the highest opinion, could be induced by his advisers to believe that what was intended would not be a violation of his engagements.

His Majesty said that his own Government and that of Her Majesty must now take the state of the question into serious consideration; and he trusted that Austria-Hungary would find Great Britain ready to co-operate with her in maintaining their common interests and also those of Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 50.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 57. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 27, 1878.*

I REACHED Vienna yesterday morning, and having called upon Count Andrassy by appointment in the evening, had a very long conversation with him upon the present position of affairs.

His Excellency went into a lengthy recapitulation of the course hitherto followed by the Austro-Hungarian Government for the purpose, apparently, of establishing the perfect consistency of his policy, and of meeting any charge that might be brought against him of backwardness in coming to an understanding with Her Majesty's Government upon the steps to be taken for the protection of the interests and rights of the two countries.

As there was nothing in this explanation which he had not repeatedly stated to Sir Andrew Buchanan, as reported in his despatches to your Lordship, I abstain from a needless recapitulation of it. My wish being that we should approach the subject in the best disposition for coming to a distinct understanding, it appeared better to allow his statements to pass without much allusion to the vague and unsatisfactory nature of some of the language employed by him during the past negotiations; but when he proceeded to reflect upon the want of decision shown by Her Majesty's Government, I at once pointed out that their course had been fettered by the obligation he had himself imposed upon them of giving no public intimation of the negotiations or of the understanding existing between the two Governments. There was, I said, a strong disinclination in England to see Her Majesty's Government take any step which might involve us in war with Russia single-handed and without an ally.

Her Majesty's Government had been taunted in Parliament for being in a position of total isolation, and, owing to his insisting that all that had passed between the two Governments should be kept profoundly secret, they had been unable to repel that reproach or to state their true position. Since I left England, notice had been given of an application to Parliament for a vote of credit, to enable Her Majesty's Government to meet any sudden emergency that might arise. It would certainly be opposed; and if he wished to strengthen Her Majesty's Government so as to insure them a satisfactory majority, he should consent to open their lips, and enable them to inform Parliament that they were not so isolated as was represented, but that the British and Austrian Governments were acting in concert.

Count Andrassy spoke of the delicacy of his position and of the difficulty of stating publicly that he had been carrying on negotiations which might seem at variance with the understanding subsisting between the three Emperors; but he promised to reflect upon what I had said, and to let me know the next day how far he considered Her Majesty's Government might go in intimating that the views of the Austrian Government were in conformity with their own.

He considered it very desirable that the vote should not be represented as an act of hostility against Russia, but simply as a measure of precaution to enable Her Majesty's Government, if the occasion for it should arise, to take at a moment's notice the steps necessary for the protection of British interests.

He is convinced that, far from leading to war, peace would be assured by Russia becoming convinced that Great Britain and Austria were determined to maintain their rights and interests.

At the same time, and notwithstanding this conviction, it is necessary that England and Austria should be agreed as to what they would do if Russia persisted in a determination to settle matters of general European interests without regard for the rights of other Powers; and he hoped to receive from your Lordship some information upon the course which Her Majesty's Government would in that case be prepared to follow.

If a conflict became necessary, Austria would not act by halves. Her whole army, amounting, with the reserves—which are as good as a regular army—to 1,000,000 of men, would at once be mobilized; and it was difficult to believe that the Government of St. Petersburgh would provoke a rupture, which must inevitably cause the destruction of the whole Russian force now on Turkish soil.

A few hours before I saw Count Andrassy he had received from M. Novikoff the substance of the conditions of peace which Russia had demanded from the Porte, and he wished to compare them with those given to your Lordship by Count Schouvaloff. He had telegraphed the former *in extenso* to Count Beust, who will no doubt have communicated them to your Lordship. Upon comparing the two versions, the principal difference between them appeared to lie in a statement contained in that of M. Novikoff, but not in the other, to the effect that the arrangement respecting the passage of the Straits was to be come to direct between the Emperor and the Sultan, and likewise in a declaration that when the conditions are accepted, Turkish Plenipotentiaries should be sent to Odessa or Sebastopol to convert them into preliminaries of peace, General Ignatiew having already been sent from St. Petersburgh to assist in drawing them up.

As far as it is possible for me to judge from a first interview, I believe Count Andrassy to be resolved, if supported by Her Majesty's Government, to stand up for the right of Europe to be consulted upon any terms of peace containing modifications to be made in the Treaties; and he declares that the Powers must not be simply invited to endorse arrangements settled between Russia and Turkey, or to legalize accomplished facts, as was done in 1871, but must be *bond fide* consulted upon every point affecting the European Treaties, which cannot be altered without their consent.

With regard to any proposal by Russia to occupy Bulgaria after peace was signed, Count Andrassy expressed his firm determination, even if standing alone, not to tolerate it, and he had two days ago intimated to M. Novikoff his resolution to that effect. It was not his business to say how order was to be maintained in the impossible autonomic State

that was to be called into existence; but it should not, at any rate, be by Russian soldiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 51.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 59. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 27, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY asked me yesterday whether it was correct, as implied in the first of the Russian conditions of peace, that the Preliminary Conference at Constantinople last year had proposed the formation of a Bulgaria extending to the south of the Balkans. I said that it was by no means correct.

General Ignatiew had at first strongly advocated the creation of a large Bulgarian province, but the Marquis of Salisbury had firmly resisted the proposal, and the Preliminary Conference, as could be seen from the Minutes, adopted the principle of dividing the district in which the reforms were to be introduced into two separate villayets or provinces, where the Bulgarian population was most numerous.

Count Andrassy observed that this was totally different from what would appear from the language of the Russian conditions, and he seemed to attach much importance to what he regarded as an attempt on the part of Russia to make it appear that the Powers had already expressed themselves in favour of a vastly extended Bulgaria, which would be the great Slav State, the creation of which he has constantly expressed his determination to resist.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 52.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 62. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 27, 1878.*

ACCORDING to his promise, Count Andrassy called upon me to-day to inform me of the length to which he was willing that Her Majesty's Government might go in communicating to Parliament the concurrence of the Austro-Hungarian Government in their views respecting the modification of European Treaties.

He read me from a Memorandum, of which he afterwards sent the copy as herewith inclosed, and of which I telegraphed the substance to your Lordship, the statement which he considered Her Majesty's Government might make to the House of Commons.

I should have wished Count Andrassy to allow plainer language to be used than the statement that the repeated declarations of Austria justified the conviction that she shared the view adopted by Her Majesty's Government, but he was not disposed to go further.

Count Andrassy lays much stress upon the expediency of recognizing that the Porte is bound, as regards Russia, by any agreement that may have been signed by the Plenipotentiaries, as he considers it desirable to deprive Russia of all pretext for pretending that, the preliminaries being repudiated, she is free to continue her advance upon Constantinople.

He suspects that she may be anxious to find such a pretext, but, if the Porte declares that it abides by the arrangements of its own and the Russian Plenipotentiaries, Count Andrassy believes it impossible for her to commit such an outrage as that of a renewal of the attack.

He proposes to telegraph this evening to St. Petersburgh in terms similar to those in the statement suggested to Her Majesty's Government, and he considers that far from any secret being made of the views of the British and Austrian Cabinets, it would be desirable for all the other Governments to be informed of them.

As the right of all the parties to the Treaties to be consulted about their modification is the same, although the interests of Austria and England may be more directly affected, Count Andrassy continues desirous that our two Governments should not have the

appearance of consulting separately upon a matter of European interest, and he believes it impossible for any of the others to refuse to recognize the correctness of the principle which he puts forward.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Memorandum.

QUANT aux arrangements qui ont été pris entre le Quartier-Général Russe et les Délégués Ottomans à Kysanlik, nous déclarons que nous ne pouvons pas mettre en question la validité de ces arrangements, en ce qui concerne la Porte; mais qu'en autant qu'ils sont de nature à porter des modifications aux Traités Européens et à toucher aux intérêts généraux, nous ne pourrions reconnaître à ces arrangements aucune validité tant qu'ils ne seraient pas devenus l'objet d'un accord formel entre les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Paris.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine espère que cette appréciation, pleinement fondée dans les Traités et notamment dans la Convention de Londres de 1871, rencontrera l'assentiment des autres Puissances Signataires. Pour ce qui est de l'Autriche-Hongrie les déclarations réitérées de cette Puissance nous inspirent la conviction qu'elle partage entièrement le point de vue adopté par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine.

No. 53.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 27, 1878.*

PRINCE JON GHIKA, who arrived here a few days ago on a mission from the Roumanian Government, called upon me this afternoon to express the hope that the Governments, parties to the Treaty of Paris, would intercede with their good offices to prevent the retrocession to Russia of the portion of Bessarabia which was attached to the Principalities in 1856.

It appeared, he said, that notwithstanding the Treaty which Russia had entered into with the Principalities at the commencement of the war, guaranteeing the integrity of the Roumanian territory, she was now, without communication with Prince Charles' Government, insisting upon the Bessarabian portion of Moldavia being ceded to her, while a pretence was to be made of indemnifying Roumania by annexing to it the Dobrudscha, which it did not want, and which, with a Tartar and Circassian population, and separated from the Principality by the Danube, would be a positive embarrassment instead of a benefit.

I told Prince Ghika that I fully understood the anxiety his Government must feel on the subject he had spoken to me about, and I could assure him that the wish of Her Majesty's Government was that there should be as little disturbance as possible of the arrangements come to under the Treaty of Paris, but at the same time it was impossible for me to hold out to him much expectation of assistance from Her Majesty's Government.

Russia might possibly endeavour to obtain modifications of the Treaty on matters of more general European interest than that which particularly concerned Roumania.

He must remember that if Russia was now in a position to exact onerous terms of peace, it was in no small degree owing to the assistance given to her by the Principality itself, which, without a semblance of a grievance against the Porte, had entered into an alliance against the Sultan, and had placed its army at the disposal of the Emperor in invading Turkish territory.

Making every allowance for the difficulty of the position in which Roumania was placed at the outbreak of the war, it was impossible to pretend that there was any necessity for the active part she had taken in the attack upon Turkey.

Everybody had been aware that one of the objects of Russia in making the war was the recovery of the ceded portion of Bessarabia; and months before it broke out I myself repeatedly warned General Ghika, the Roumanian Agent at Constantinople, that if his Government was ill enough advised to ally itself with Russia, it must be prepared

to find itself repaid for its assistance by being called upon to cede the Bessarabian portion of Moldavia.

The demand which he believed Russia now to be making would, therefore, be nothing more than what was expected, and he must be aware that his Government, by proclaiming the independence of the Principality and making war upon its Suzerain, had itself flown in the face of the Treaty of Paris, for the maintenance of which it now wished to invoke the good offices of the Powers.

Prince Gliika gave a deplorable picture of the state to which his country had been reduced, and said it had already paid so dearly for any fault its Government might have committed that he still hoped the Powers might interfere to save it from still further ruin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 54.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 64. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 28, 1878.*

HAVING seen Baron Calice this afternoon, I inquired of him whether Count Andrassy had already dispatched to St. Petersburgh the intimation that the Austro-Hungarian Government concurred in the views of that of Her Majesty respecting the necessity for consulting the European Powers upon all matters affecting the provisions of the Treaty of Paris.

Baron Calice answered that it had not yet been sent, but would be dispatched this evening.

Count Andrassy had told me he was fully aware that this intimation, mild as it is, of the understanding between England and Austria, would cause much displeasure at St. Petersburgh, and perhaps at Berlin, and I have little doubt that the communication to Russia was delayed in order to see whether Her Majesty's Government brought forward the proposed vote of credit this evening.

The telegrams from London were calculated to inspire a doubt whether the vote might not be abandoned or adjourned, and the Austrian Government show an extreme unwillingness to take a step implying a weakening of the "Drei Kaiser Bund" until they have tangible evidence of the intention of Great Britain to stand up for the right of Europe to be consulted about any modifications of the Treaties.

Although, therefore, Baron Calice said that the communication to Russia would be made this evening, I am prepared to find that it is not sent till the news arrives of the vote being actually asked for.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 55.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 66. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 29, 1878.*

I FOUND Count Andrassy to-day much disturbed, or I should perhaps say irritated, by a telegram he had received from Count Beust reporting a conversation with your Lordship, which he considered to indicate an intention on the part of Her Majesty's Government to repudiate the understanding come to under his despatch to Count Beust of the 30th July, and your Lordship's despatch to Sir Andrew Buchanan of the 14th August.

Count Beust's telegram was to the effect that your Lordship had intimated to him that the only anxiety of Her Majesty's Government related to the question of the passage of the Straits, and that they had nothing to object to regarding the autonomy proposed by Russia for Bulgaria.

Count Andrassy read from two despatches the terms of the agreement by which he considers us both bound.

In his despatch he enumerates seven points that he considered incompatible with

Austrian interests, declaring at the same time that if Her Majesty's Government engaged to join him in opposing them he was ready to support the English views on the question of the passage of the Straits, in which we were more interested than Austria, and this agreement was completed by your Lordship's despatch of the 14th August.

The seventh of the points which he had declared incompatible with Austrian interests was "the establishment of a great Slav State to the detriment of the other populations of the Balkan Peninsula," and as the Russian project of a new Bulgaria extending far south of the Balkans and approaching Salonica and Cavalla would create such a State, Count Andrassy wished to be informed as soon as possible whether he could count upon Her Majesty's Government to adhere to the declarations of the 14th August in their full integrity, and to support the Austrian Government in opposing it.

He was, he said, aware that the Russian Government had already given assurances that the question of the Straits should be referred to the Powers; but if a Conference was to be invited to deliberate upon that point alone, he, for one, would absolutely refuse to take part in it.

The agreement between the Austrian and British Governments was a whole, and he could not consent to allow any one part of it to be separated from the rest.

Count Andrassy spoke throughout with much appearance of excitement.

I said I had received no information from your Lordship of your conversation with Count Beust; but I could at once state my conviction that he must have entirely mistaken your meaning if he attributed to Her Majesty's Government any intention of repudiating or receding from any engagement they had entered into. I would, however, lose no time in telegraphing what he had said to your Lordship.

Count Andrassy said he had heard from Count Zichy of the rapid advance of the Russians towards Constantinople, which he represented as being in no position to make a serious resistance, the troops being utterly demoralised and insufficient in numbers to defend the lines.

At the commencement of the war, he had objected to coming to an understanding with Her Majesty's Government for opposing a Russian entry into Constantinople, because a knowledge of such an agreement might encourage the Turks to prolong their resistance and to refuse to listen to terms of peace, and because he recognized the justice of the argument of the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh that it could not take an engagement to refrain from an act which might become a military necessity.

These reasons, however, no longer exist, for the Turks having accepted the preliminary conditions of peace offered to them, there is neither a military necessity nor even an excuse for a further Russian advance.

He believes that if the Russians enter Constantinople, there is every reason to anticipate frightful calamities, and if Austrian and British lives and property are sacrificed, he does not know how the Governments can answer to their country for doing nothing to avert it.

There is, he says, no time to be lost, and he begs that, as soon as possible, he may be made acquainted with the manner in which Her Majesty's Government would contemplate an evident design by Russia to attack or enter the capital.

Within four-and-twenty hours of the time at which he is informed of any decision by Her Majesty's Government to meet this emergency, he will be prepared to state the measures which, on her side, Austria will be ready to adopt.

M. Langenau had telegraphed that application had been made to St. Petersburgh for the immediate dispatch of the reserve forces to the seat of war, but the Emperor refused to send them till he was informed of the object for which they were required.

No better evidence could be given of the determination of the military commanders to push forward, and to continue their operations without regard to the assurances given by their Government, or, perhaps, even contrary to its wishes.

Count Andrassy spoke at some length of the encouragement that had been given to Austria from different quarters to compensate itself in Bosnia for the progress of Russia in Bulgaria.

He had rejected all those overtures, and, in the common interest of Europe, had preferred coming to an understanding with Great Britain; but if he was now to be abandoned by Her Majesty's Government, he must revert to the other alternative.

It was not too late for him to do so, and a single day would suffice to enable him to agree with the Russian Government for a territorial indemnity which would save him from the reproach of having neglected to secure the interests of Austria.

He would take that course with regret, but no other would be left open to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 56.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 67. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 27, 1878.*

WHEN Count Andrassy spoke yesterday of the necessity of a European sanction for any modifications in the existing Treaties relating to Turkey, I asked him how he proposed to proceed if Russia recognized the principle contended for.

He said he saw no other way than by a Congress or Conference.

Such a matter could not, he thought, be negotiated by notes and despatches from the different Cabinets.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 57.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 68. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 27, 1878.*

IN my conversation with Count Andrassy last night, when he spoke of the possibility of Austria being involved in war with Russia, I asked him whether he was at ease respecting the attitude which might in such a case be assumed by Germany.

He declared himself altogether free from anxiety upon that head.

He had no apprehension of any hostile or unfriendly act from Prince Bismarck, of whom he spoke in terms of complete confidence.

If Austria were obliged to mobilize her army, she would have to place a force of 200,000 men upon her southern frontier as a precaution against any designs on the part of Italy, but that would be all that was required.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 58.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 70.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 30, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to report that I communicated the substance of your telegram to Lord Augustus Loftus to Baron Orczy, and I said that I was in hopes it would convince Count Andrassy that there was no ground for the impression he had derived from Count Beust's account of the conversation he had had with your Lordship.

Baron Orczy replied that the telegram appeared to give with perfect accuracy the substance of the declaration which Count Andrassy had wished Her Majesty's Government to make.

His Excellency added that the communication of the Austrian Government to that of St. Petersburgh had been made in very similar terms, and the answer that had been returned contained assurances that all questions affecting the Treaties should be referred to a Conference of the Powers for decision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 59.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 72. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 31, 1878.*

WHEN I saw Count Andrassy to-day, he said that as he knew there was a suspicion in some quarters that Russia and Austria had a secret understanding, he would read to me a despatch which he had written to Baron Langenau on the 23rd instant.

I was detained by Count Andrassy till so nearly the time for dispatching the messenger, that it is impossible to go into any detailed account of it, or to say more than that it protests in the strongest language against the disposition shown by the Russian Government to disregard all the remonstrances of Austria in the manner of treating with the Porte.

Its tone is certainly very far from friendly towards Russia.

Count Andrassy will send a copy of this despatch to Count Beust, who will, no doubt, communicate it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 60.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 73. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 31, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY tells me, in the strictest confidence, which he begs may be observed, that the Russian Government have not only promised that all European questions to be arranged in a peace with Turkey shall be submitted to a Conference, but are willing that Austria should take the initiative in inviting one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 61.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, February 2.)

(No. 9. Confidential.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, January 30, 1878.*

HAVING this morning received a letter, dated the 23rd instant, from M. Duby, the Secretary of the Prince of Montenegro, I venture to give your Excellency briefly the substance of such observations contained in it as may be of interest to Her Majesty's Government.

M. Duby states that the storming of Dulcigno, on the 19th instant, cost the Montenegrins above 180 men killed and wounded. He remarks that this is a very heavy loss for the Montenegrin army, and that both Nichsich and Antivari were taken with much less expenditure of life.

With regard to the present condition of the people of the Principality itself, M. Duby describes it as "terrible;" although, on the score of the food supply, he admits that there has been an amelioration, dating from the arrival of two high officials, sent by the Russian Government and the Slav Committees to superintend the purchase and distribution of relief.

Abundance of clothing is also sent, but no discrimination seems to be exercised in its selection; for M. Duby mentions muslin and silk dresses, bonnets, stays, and satin boots, as articles not unfrequently forwarded from Russia.

English charity has been more practical and sensible. Mr. Furley, of the Relief Society, has sent blankets and overcoats, and is sending more. Mr. Forsyth has forwarded regular Montenegrin garments, made of stout materials. Professor Freeman supplies sums of money at regular intervals; and the Rev. Mr. Denton is unremitting in addressing to Prince Nicholas letters of political advice.

M. Duby adds that Colonel Thömmel, the Austro-Hungarian Agent, has fallen into great disfavour with the Prince. I have no doubt that he has of late had frequent occasion to make disagreeable communications to His Highness on behalf of Count Andrassy, with reference to the extent to which the military successes of Montenegro will be allowed to redound to her advantage in the ultimate re-arrangement of her frontiers.

Your Excellency is aware that M. de Novikow remarked not long ago to Count Andrassy that Prince Nicholas had complained to the Czar of the conduct of the Austro-Hungarian Agent at Cettigné; and that his Excellency had answered that if His Highness thought himself aggrieved he should address himself direct to the Austro-Hungarian Government.

Having been for several months intimately associated with Colonel Thömmel, I can easily understand that the knowledge of the Russian intrigues, of which he is constantly the object, would not have tended to make his demeanour, rigid and formal as it naturally is, more suave and conciliatory towards Prince Nicholas, who is compelled by force of circumstances to listen with deference to all that the Russian Agent may have to say to him.

M. Duby, having but little confidence in the inviolability of letters entrusted to the Austro-Hungarian Post-office, is careful to write to me in terms as little as possible compromising to himself, and to leave me to divine, as best I can, the import of his ambiguous sentences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 62.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 85.)
Rome, January 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to receive this morning your Lordship's instructions of yesterday evening relative to the non-recognition by Her Majesty's Government of arrangements which might be made between Russia and Turkey calculated to modify European Treaties, and to affect general and British interests, unless they are made the subject of formal agreement among the Power parties to the Treaty of Paris, and to inclose herewith a copy of a note which I have addressed to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs embodying the above instructions, and which I have just placed in M. Depretis' hands.

His Excellency informed me that he had been prepared for a communication of the kind by a telegram which he had this morning received from General Menabrea.

I said that I did not doubt that the proposal would meet with the assent of the Italian Government.

M. Depretis replied that he would send me the answer in writing as soon as possible, probably to-morrow.

I said that in the meantime I should be glad if his Excellency could authorise me to hold out the hope that the answer would be favourable; but as his Excellency hesitated as to this, I made some observations, of which the following is the substance:—

The assent of the Italian Government, I said, was required upon a question of principle, and the principle involved was this: when several Powers were parties to a Treaty, had any two of them the faculty, by separate arrangements between themselves, of annihilating such Treaty, and with it the rights and interests of the other contracting parties? Her Majesty's Government contended that they had not, and they made a declaration to that effect. They had never said that modifications in the Treaties of 1856 and 1871 were not admissible, but what they did say was that those Treaties having an European character they could not be set aside without the formal consent and agreement of the Powers who had signed them. No doubt, I said, a similar declaration made by all the other Powers would produce its natural effect by showing that there was at least unanimity on this point.

M. Depretis replied that, as the arrangements which might be made between the Russian and Turkish delegates for the conclusion of an armistice and settlement of the bases of peace were to be considered as binding between the two belligerents, he did not think that much good would accrue to reserving the rights of Europe.

I said there were two questions under discussion:—First, the terms of armistice and bases of peace, which Her Majesty's Government did not contest the right of the belligerents to establish together; and the second, the rights and interests of Europe,

which Her Majesty's Government did not think that Russia and Turkey had the faculty to dispose of. According to his Excellency's theory, I said, if Russia and Turkey settled between themselves the question of the Straits and Bosphorus, then Europe had nothing to do but to register their edicts.

M. Depretis exclaimed against such an interpretation of his meaning. The question of the Straits, his Excellency said, had been distinctly reserved by Russia as an European one.

His Excellency again repeated, in the most distinct and positive manner, that he considered the interests of Italy and England to be identical in the affairs of the East, and especially so in regard to the question of the Straits.

I said that, under these circumstances, I could not understand his Excellency's hesitation as to at once giving his assent to the views of Her Majesty's Government which I had now laid before him.

M. Depretis begged me not to press him for any further answer to-day; but, as I still continued the argument, he said at last that he would use his best endeavours ("je ferai tous mes efforts") that the reply should be favourable, though he took no engagement that it should be.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Sir A. Paget to M. Depretis.

Rome, January 30, 1878.

M. le Ministre,

IN compliance with instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government, while recognizing any arrangements made by the Russian and Turkish Delegates at Kysanlik for the conclusion of an armistice and settlement of bases of peace as binding between the two belligerents, declare that, in so far as those arrangements are calculated to modify European Treaties and to affect general and British interests, they are unable to recognize in them any validity unless they are made the subject of a formal agreement among the parties to the Treaty of Paris.

Her Majesty's Government hope that this view of the case, which is entirely based upon Treaties, and especially upon the Treaty of London of 1871, will receive the assent of the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 63.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 84.)
Paris, January 31, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Austrian Ambassador, Comte de Wimpffen, came to see me this afternoon, and in the course of conversation mention was made of the Declaration, which I had communicated to the French Government, respecting the invalidity, so far as third Powers were concerned, of arrangements affecting European Treaties, concluded between Russia and Turkey, without the participation of the other Governments parties to those Treaties.

Allusion was also made to the similar Declaration, stated in the newspapers to have been made by Austria to Russia.

The Ambassador told me that he had not communicated any declaration of this kind to the Government of France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 64.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 86.) *Paris, February 1, 1878.*

My Lord,

A RUMOUR is current here, which although I cannot trace it to anything more certain than conjecture, may perhaps be worth mentioning.

The extraordinary delay in our receiving intelligence about the armistice is attributed to a desire, on the part of the Russians, to obtain actual possession of the Turkish fleet before it becomes known in Europe, and especially before it becomes known in England, that they demand the surrender of it.

It is accordingly affirmed that the Russians have delayed signing the armistice, and have required that the actual transfer of the fleet to a Russian port shall be an established fact before any suspension of hostilities takes place; and it is alleged that they have ensured the secrecy of the Turks by using strong menaces, and especially by threatening an immediate advance on Constantinople, if any disclosure is made.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 65.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 142.) *Constantinople, January 31, 1878.*

(Telegraphic.)

HOBART PASHA informs me that Turkish squadron, co-operating with army, has gained a brilliant victory at Batoum, taking 500 prisoners, and completely repulsed attack on the place.

No. 66.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 143.) *Constantinople, January 31, 1878.*

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Hobart Pasha informs me that there are at Batoum two iron-clad and two wooden corvettes; at Sulina, three iron-clads and two wooden corvettes, ordered to Constantinople. At Constantinople, one large iron-clad and several smaller vessels; at Antivari, two iron-clad frigates; at Crete, four wooden corvettes and frigates. Between Dédéagatch, Gallipoli, and Constantinople, carrying troops, three iron-clads and two wooden frigates; at Volo and Smyrna, one iron-clad corvette each, some transports, and small vessels.

No. 67.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 144.) *Constantinople, January 31, 1878.*

(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed that answer to the following effect has been sent by the Grand Vizier to the Plenipotentiaries, in reply to telegram communicated to you in my telegram No. 141:—

"As, according to your telegram, the Protocol will be signed to-day, we are about to write to our Commanders to take the necessary measures for suspension of hostilities with Russia, as well as Roumanian, Servian, and Montenegrin armies.

"Request the Grand Duke to give the necessary orders, both in Europe and Asia, in order to avoid useless bloodshed."

No. 68.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(Telegraphic.)

(Most Confidential.) *Rome, February 1, 1878.*

MY French colleague tells me that he is instructed to ascertain the view of Italian Government, with whom French Government are desirous of acting, in regard to present crisis. I understand that in making this inquiry he is to say that the French Government, although fully alive to the dangers which now menace the interests of the Western Powers, consider that it is better for France to maintain a prudent and reserved attitude, at all events until policy of England and Austria is made clear.

No. 69.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 145.) *Constantinople, February 1, 1878.*

(Telegraphic.)

EMPEROR, in reply to telegram from Sultan, says:—"Il me faut, et je dirai qu'il nous faut, une paix solide et durable." General Ignatiew, it is said, will be the Russian Plenipotentiary, which produces a very bad effect.

No. 70.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 147.) *Constantinople, February 1, 1878, 9·45 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Salonica, Monday:—

"Italian squadron, composed of six iron-clads, is to be stationed here. Two of them arrived to-day, rest are to follow."

No. 71.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 148.) *Pera, February 2, 1878, 3·45 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE just been informed that bases of peace and armistice have been signed and military operations stopped.

No. 72.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, February 2, 1878.*

FOLLOWING sent to Constantinople:—

"I have been circumstantially informed that the Greek troops under the orders of General Soutyo crossed the frontiers into Turkey this morning."

No. 73.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

Athens, February 2, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has to-day called upon me to inform me that Thessaly being in a state of insurrection the Greek Government has sent its troops into Turkey in order to protect lives and property of Christians and Mussulmans alike; that its motive in so acting is purely philanthropic; that it hopes Turkey and European powers will consider it in this light, and that it does not desire a rupture of friendly relations with Turkey.

His Excellency tells me that he has telegraphed in this sense to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London, and that he has sent a note to him for communication to your Lordship explaining the action of the Government.

I have informed Admiral Hornby of the invasion of Turkish territory by Greek forces.

(*En clair.*) Above sent to Constantinople.

No. 74.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 2, 1878.*

THIS morning Prince Gortchakow confirmed to me his statement, reported in my telegram, regarding ulterior understanding for safe-guarding Russian interests in Straits. General Ignatiew has instructions in that sense when he arrives at Adrianople, but he has not been able yet to cross Danube.

No. 75.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(Telegraphic.)
(No. 8. Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, February 2, 1878.*

I AM told that Prince Gortchakow was much put out by the communications from Vienna; but that an autograph letter from Emperor of Austria to Emperor of Russia has restored confidence.

Prince Gortchakow has, I hear, accepted in principle proposal made by Count Andrassy for a Conference.

No. 76.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February 2, 1878.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that France will not entertain seriously a proposal for a Conference unless it emanates from two at least of the three Powers directly interested, and from these two acting in concert with each other. By the three Powers directly interested he means Great Britain, Austria, and Russia.

He has not yet made a formal answer to the declaration of Her Majesty's Government respecting the invalidity of arrangements concluded without the participation of the European Powers.

No. 77.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February 2, 1878.*

VRANJA has been taken by the Servians after severe fighting.

No. 78.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 2, 1878, 4·55 P.M.*

IN answer to your telegram of the 1st instant, Her Majesty's Government have received with great satisfaction your report of the language held by M. Depretis. They are prepared to act with Italy and Austria and with France, if the latter Power desires it.

They believe that the sincerity of the Austrian Government may be relied on, as Austrian interests are deeply concerned. In the event of a Russian entry, or attempted entry, into Constantinople, the presence of a combined fleet would be extremely desirable. Would the Italian Government be prepared in such a case to act with that of England?

No. 79.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 2, 1878, 5·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day, at 5 P.M., I have to instruct your Excellency to sound the French Government in a similar sense to that in which Sir A. Paget is instructed to speak to the Italian Government.

No. 80.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 2, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Government are of opinion that it would be desirable that a Conference should be proposed without delay.

They think the proposition will most properly come from the Government of Austria-Hungary, and that the Conference should be held at Vienna. If Count Andrassy is prepared to make this proposition Her Majesty's Government will support it. They are prepared to enter into a confidential agreement with Austria as to the details of peace, and meanwhile they repeat that they adhere to their approval of the seven Austrian points.

In regard to the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, they assume that Austria will support them in maintaining the principle that no special privileges shall be granted to any Power, and that sufficient safeguards shall be taken against possession by any of the European Powers of control over the navigation.

No. 81.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 2, 1878.*

WITH reference to my other telegram of to-day, suggest to Count Andrassy that he should communicate to Italian and French Governments Prince Gortchakow's statement, reported in my telegram of the 1st instant, that Russia has no objection to a Conference, and will leave initiative of summoning it to Austria-Hungary.

It might probably decide them to support the proposal.

No. 82.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 84. Very Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 2, 1878.*

I HAVE to request your Excellency to inform the Austro-Hungarian Government that in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government it would be desirable that a proposal for a Conference should be made without delay.

They consider that such a proposal would most properly come from the Austro-Hungarian Government, and if, therefore, Count Andrassy is prepared to take the initiative, Her Majesty's Government will give it their support.

Her Majesty's Government are ready to enter into a confidential agreement with that of Austria-Hungary respecting the details of the conditions of peace, and in the meanwhile they take this opportunity of again stating that they adhere to the approval of the seven Austrian points which they have already expressed.

As respects the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Her Majesty's Government assume that they will receive the support of Austria in maintaining the principle that no special privileges shall be accorded to any Power, and that adequate safeguards shall be provided against control over the navigation being in the possession of any of the European Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 83.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 86. Very Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 2, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 84 of this day's date, I have to request your Excellency to suggest to Count Andrassy that he should communicate to the French and Italian Governments Prince Gortchakow's statement, of which a copy was inclosed in my despatch No. 79 of the 1st instant, to the effect that Russia has no objection to a Conference, and will leave the initiative of summoning it to Austria-Hungary.

This might possibly decide the Governments of France and Italy to support the proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 84.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 81.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 2, 1878.*

YOUR Excellency will have received my telegram of to-day's date, in which I recorded the words of a telegram from Sir A. Paget reporting the language held to him by Signor Depretis in regard to the present situation in the East; and I have now to request that your Excellency will sound the French Government in a similar sense to that in which Sir A. Paget has been instructed to speak to the Government of Italy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 85.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 60 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 2, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration your Excellency's telegram of yesterday, in which you report the language held by Signor Depretis to you in regard to the present situation in the East, and in which he expresses the desire of the Italian Government to come to an understanding with that of Her Majesty.

Her Majesty's Government have received with great satisfaction your Excellency's report above referred to, and you are authorized to assure Signor Depretis that they are prepared to act with Italy and Austria, and with France also, should the latter Power desire it.

Her Majesty's Government have every confidence that the sincerity of the Austrian Government may be depended on, since the interests of Austria are deeply concerned in the questions at issue.

Her Majesty's Government consider that in the event of a Russian entry into, or even an attempted entry into Constantinople, the presence of a combined fleet would be extremely desirable, and they would be glad to learn from your Excellency whether, in such a contingency, the Italian Government would be prepared to act with that of England.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 86.

Lord Tenterden to M. Ivancho Tongoroff.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 2, 1878.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your Memorandum dated the 17th ultimo, calling attention to the sufferings to which the Protestant people of Bulgaria are exposed at the hands of the authorities of the Greek Church.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 87.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 81.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 17, 1878.*

I AM informed from the Porte that Musurus Pasha has been instructed to state to your Lordship that the Russians are about to enter Adrianople, and that after doing so they will, there is every reason to believe, march upon Constantinople.

The Ministers and chief dignitaries of the Empire, including ex-Grand Viziers, have been in council all day with the Sultan, and are apparently in a state of panic, which, it is feared, may extend to the population of the capital, when the danger of an advance of the enemy becomes known.

Considering the grave deception practised upon Her Majesty's Government by that of Russia in the case of the armistice, should not some precautions be taken, without loss of time, to prevent a Russian force making a sudden advance upon the Dardanelles and taking the lines of Boulair, and the forts on the western side of the Straits, by surprise?

For the present there is no agitation in Constantinople, and the city is perfectly quiet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 88.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 82. Secret.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 17, 1878.*

COUNT ZICHY has informed me, very confidentially and privately, that he has telegraphed to Count Andrassy that he has reason to believe that preparations are already being made at the palace for the departure of the Sultan for Broussa, should his capital be menaced by the Russians. My Austrian colleague says that he has suggested to Count Andrassy that in the event of Constantinople being about to be occupied by the enemy, he should be authorized to go to Moudania in the gunboat attached to the Embassy, and to live on board of it there. He would then be within a few hours of Broussa, and could be in constant communication with the Sultan. His Excellency authorized me to communicate this to your Lordship, but on the strict understanding that it should not be mentioned to any one.

In the course of a further conversation as to the expediency of having some English ships of war in the Golden Horn for the protection of life and property in the event of disturbances in Constantinople, Count Zichy observed that he was of opinion that their presence would be of very great importance in preventing a panic and its probable consequences.

He added that he would so telegraph to Count Andrassy, and would ask for instructions to support me in any application that Her Majesty's Government might think fit to make to the Porte for permission for British vessels of war to pass the Dardanelles, and to come up to the capital.

I hear, upon good authority, that the German Ambassador is endeavouring to prevail upon the Porte not to listen to the representations that Count Zichy and I have been instructed to make to the Turkish Government with regard to the conclusion of a peace which might be at variance with the Treaty of Paris without the previous concurrence of the parties to that Treaty, but to accept at once any terms that Russia might offer without reference to England or Austria.

My Austrian colleague informs me that he is so much alarmed by the language and

proceedings of Prince Reuss, which he cannot believe unauthorised by Prince Bismarck, that he has called the urgent attention of his Government to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 89.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 83.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 18, 1878.*

SAFVET PASHA, who is temporarily charged with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in the absence of Server Pasha, called upon me this morning, partly to speak to me with regard to the instructions given to the Turkish Plenipotentiaries who had been sent to the Russian head-quarters to negotiate for peace and an armistice. His Excellency said that, after the communications which had been addressed by Her Majesty's Government and that of Austria-Hungary to the Porte, stating that a peace at variance with the Treaty of Paris could not be concluded between Turkey and Russia without the concurrence and consent of its signatories, precise instructions had been given to Server and Namyk Pashas not to accept any terms which might be contrary to that Treaty, and if they were demanded to refer at once to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 90.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 84.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 18, 1878.*

I AM informed, on trustworthy authority, that, at the Council held to-day at the Ministry of War, over which the Sultan presided, His Majesty was assured that 90,000 men would shortly be collected for the defence of the lines of Bouyouk-Tchekmedjé. His Majesty expressed his intention of placing himself at the head of them. This force, it was stated, was to be made up of 10,000 men to be brought from Varna, ten battalions coming from Batoum, twenty said to be on their way under Mehemet Ali Pasha from Yamboli, and others which are already in the capital and can be collected from various places. However, a large portion of the force which the Sultan has been told can be employed in the defence of his capital would be composed of the newly-raised Civic Guard, upon which, I understand, very little reliance can be placed.

I cannot ascertain that any preparations are being actually made for the Sultan's departure for Broussa in case of the Russians threatening Constantinople, as stated by Count Zichy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 91.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 85.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 18, 1878.*

CONSUL BLUNT having informed me that it was his intention to leave Adrianople, as the Russians were about to occupy the city, I have instructed him not to do so, but to remain at his post, unless there be any danger for his personal safety, as the place will not be defended. On consulting with my Austrian, Italian, and French colleagues, I found that they had given similar instructions to their respective Consuls.

Measures are being taken by the Turkish authorities and the railway officials, on our representations, to enable any foreigner who wishes to do so to leave Adrianople for Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 92.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 86.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 19, 1878.*

INFORMATION has been received by the Porte from the Turkish Minister at Athens that preparations are being actively made in Greece for an immediate attack upon Turkey. Bands appear to have already left for the purpose of landing upon Turkish soil, and others are ready to cross the frontier in order to incite an insurrection amongst the Greek populations of Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia, to prepare the way for entry of Hellenic regular troops into those provinces.

The Turkish Ministers have asked me to bring the conduct of Greece to the notice of your Lordship, with the earnest request that Her Majesty's Government may use their good offices at Athens to prevent this fresh and unjustifiable aggression on Turkey.

I have, &c
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 93.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 87.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, in which, it is to be hoped, he has somewhat exaggerated events under the influence of the panic that seems to have prevailed at Bourgas when he left it. I have no means of verifying the reports which were made to him as to massacres and excesses committed by Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *"Torch," Bourgas Bay, January 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 13th instant I telegraphed to Her Majesty's Embassy the information that the towns of Aidos and Karnabad had been abandoned and burnt by the order of the Turkish authorities, and that it was to be feared that Bourgas would share the same fate. At Karnabad a considerable number of Christians were murdered by the Turkish population, joined by Circassians and Albanians. I am unable to state the number massacred, but I fear that it was very large. At Aidos no lives were lost, but all the Christian refugees coming to Bourgas were plundered on the road. On the 15th instant the town of Bourgas was ordered to be evacuated, the Mussulmans being sent to a Turkish man-of-war for transport to Asia: as no means of conveyance was provided for the poorer Christians of this town and district, of whom there were many thousands on the beach in a state of extreme misery, Captain Hamond, of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," most kindly took on board as many as his ship would contain (between 400 and 500), and as the British steam-tug "Alexander" arrived here yesterday, he transported the greater number of them to her for passage to Constantinople, trusting that the passage money for these unfortunate people would be paid by Her Majesty's Government. To-day the Austrian Lloyd's steamer "Nil" arrived in harbour from Varna, and at Captain's Hamond's request agreed to convey, without payment, to Constantinople some hundreds of homeless Rayahs, who were taken on board by the "Torch's" boats and those of the Austrian; the Austrian steam-tug "Foscolo" will also convey, gratis, a considerable number of these people to the same place. There are, however, still thousands of Rayahs whose position is most precarious, as the town is full of Turkish and Circassian Bashi-Bazouks, attracted by the prospect of plunder, and the only force at the disposition of the Kaimakam is about forty marines from the "Selimie" frigate, which is quite inadequate to resist Circassians and other robbers. By the Governor's orders the large Greek church in this town has been filled up with Rayahs and sentries placed over it, but crowds of

wretched people are still on the beach unprotected, and the Governor has expressed to me his fear that they will be attacked by Bashi-Bazouks to-night. It appears to me most urgent that these people should be removed from Bourgas, as it is almost a certainty that if they remain here they will be massacred: Captain Hamond's ship is still filled up with fugitives and can hold no more; for the last three days his boats have been employed from morning till evening in conveying refugees from the shore to the "Torch," or to the steamers willing to take them; the Governor has begged Captain Hamond to take away out of danger as many of the Rayahs as he possibly can, but only a small proportion are as yet in safety. Many of them are perfectly destitute of everything, and numbers have lost their relatives, murdered in the towns and villages. The town of Slimia has been abandoned and burnt, as also almost every Christian village in the sub-province, and I fear that massacres have been fearfully common everywhere: in several villages I know that men, women, and children have been killed by the Mussulmans. All the houses and shops of Bourgas have been broken into and looted by the Mussulmans. Captain Hamond and I saw them at work to-day, when we were in the town. I hear that all the other towns on the coast near here, Akiolo and Sizoboli and Missevria are also threatened by Circassians.

I have just spoken to a Bulgarian girl, now on board the "Torch," who has escaped from Karnabad, and was witness of part of the massacre there. She estimates the number killed (men, women, and children) at more than 500. She was one of about twelve out of 300 who saved themselves from a large house set on fire by the Mussulmans; the others were all murdered. I have great reason to fear that the inhabitants of the Greek village of Roun Yeni-keui, eight miles from here, and containing about 200 houses, have been murdered; the report is that most of them have been burnt alive in the church. If it is at all possible I will try to go into the interior to verify these reports, though the evidence appears to me only too convincing; at present, there being no law outside the town, it is out of the question, and the Circassians have carried off all the horses, including my own three, with their saddles.

I must again most urgently recommend that all the Rayahs should be removed without loss of time; Captain Hamond, although working from morning to night with his officers, boats, and men, cannot do this unless ships are sent from Constantinople, and in a few days time the people on board the "Torch" will be starving.

I have to speak in the highest terms of the conduct of the Kaïmakam of Bourgas, who behaves in the most admirable manner; but, unfortunately, the means at his disposal are totally unequal to the emergency.

I will endeavour to keep your Excellency informed of what occurs here by all opportunities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

P.S.—I am every moment hearing from the refugees on board the "Torch" of murders of which I was still ignorant; for instance, a woman here has had fifteen relations murdered, and a man all his family, thirteen in number.

C. A. B.

No. 94.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 88. Secret.)
Constantinople, January 19, 1878.

My Lord,

IN the Memorandum delivered by your Lordship to Count Schouvaloff, copy inclosed in your Lordship's Secret despatch No. 844 of the 13th ultimo, your Lordship expressed the earnest hope of the Cabinet to the Russian Government that, should the Russian armies advance to the south of the Balkans, no attempt would be made by them to occupy Constantinople or the Dardanelles. It has, no doubt, struck your Lordship that Prince Gortchakow, in his reply to your Lordship's Memorandum, communicated to your Lordship on the 2nd instant, whilst stating that the acquisition of Constantinople does not enter into the views of the Emperor, makes no mention either of the acquisition or occupation of the Dardanelles. This omission appears to me very significant, and I have, therefore, ventured to recall it to your Lordship's attention now that there are reports that an attempt will be made by the Russians to seize the Gallipoli Peninsula.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 95.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 89. Secret.)
Constantinople, January 19, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Turkish Ministers have begged me to send their urgent request to Her Majesty's Government to order Her Majesty's fleet, now at Vourla, to come immediately either to Besika Bay or to Macri, on the coast of Thrace, so that it might lose no time in entering the Dardanelles and anchoring off Gallipoli the moment the Russians show any intention of making a movement towards the lines of Boulair. The Porte is afraid that a Russian force might possess itself of the Gallipoli Peninsula and of the command of the Straits before the British fleet could be in the Dardanelles if it remains at so great a distance as Vourla. I informed the Porte that I would transmit the request to your Lordship at once by telegraph, which I accordingly did; but I observed that I was not certain whether, at the present season of the year, the fleet could safely anchor either at Besika or Macri.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 96.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 91.)
Constantinople, January 20, 1878.

My Lord,

I WAS informed two nights ago that the Sultan had decided to send off at once one of his Aide-de-camps, Izzet Boy, to overtake the Turkish Plenipotentiaries on their way to the head-quarters of the Grand Duke Nicholas, and that this officer was furnished with instructions to them to accept any terms of peace which Russia might demand, without referring for further authority to the Porte.

Count Zichy sent a telegram to this effect to his Government, but I have been unable to obtain from a trustworthy source any confirmation of the report as to the object of Izzet Bey's mission.

It is believed at the Porte that Server and Namyk Pashas must have arrived at the Russian head-quarters either yesterday or the day before, and as no telegram has yet been received from them, the Turkish Ministers are very anxious as to the result of their mission.

They express their fear that the Russians are delaying the journey of the Plenipotentiaries, and the commencement of the negotiations for peace and an armistice, in order to gain time, or that they may have refused leave to the Plenipotentiaries to communicate directly with Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 97.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 92.)
Constantinople, January 21, 1878.

My Lord,

THE flight of the Mussulman populations from the invaded provinces continues. Their terror is increased by reports of the cruel treatment and massacre of those who have remained in the districts occupied by the Russians and their auxiliaries. Information, which appears to be to a certain extent confirmed by Consul Blunt and Captain Fife, has reached the Sultan and the Porte that such massacres have taken place. I trust that it may prove exaggerated, if not altogether unfounded; but when the horrors committed by the invaders last year are borne in mind, it is not surprising that these rumours should cause a general panic.

It has been remarked that no Proclamation has been issued by the Russian Commanders to reassure the Mussulman populations, and to promise them protection for their lives, property, and honour. It is believed that if this measure had been taken at once, the Mahommedans would not have abandoned their homes and all they possessed before

the advancing enemy. Such Proclamations are, it is maintained, usually issued on the entrance of an invading army into a foreign country. Non-combatants and defenceless women and children have rarely been subjected in modern times to the horrors which accompanied war in barbarous ages. That massacres had previously been committed by Bashi-Bazouks is not an excuse for a civilized Government to offer; but this is a war waged against a whole people. Those who have watched the proceedings of the Russians can scarcely doubt that their deliberate object has been to drive the Turkish race out of the provinces they have occupied, and to replace it by the Slav. Such has been the policy of Russia in other countries which she has conquered. Some go so far as to maintain that the massacres and cruelties perpetrated last summer by the Bulgarians were permitted; if not encouraged, with this view. They not only served to strike terror into the Mahommedans, but to excite reprisals, which might furnish arguments to Russia to prove that it is impossible for the two races to live together any longer, and that it is, therefore, absolutely necessary to remove the Turks from Bulgaria and Roumelia. Unfortunately, this assumption, although, in my opinion, unfounded, is eagerly accepted by those who favour Russian conquests in Turkey. A more cruel policy has rarely been pursued by an ambitious and unscrupulous nation.

Those who condemn the Turks, without reference to justice or right, for all they do and all they do not do, maintain that it is the duty of the Turkish Government and authorities to calm the fears of the Mahommedans and to prevent their flight. Once having abandoned their homes and property, these persons say, the Turks can never return to them. Such is the language held by some of the foreign Representatives here. But, under the circumstances in which the Mussulmans are placed, it is utterly impossible to control them. The authorities have lost all power over them. When a wild panic seizes a whole people it is useless to reason with its victims, or to attempt to restrain them. I am told by eye-witnesses that women throw themselves with their children by thousands upon the railway trains, and no force that could be used, consistently with the respect felt by Mahommedans for women, could remove them. They remain in them without moving, packed, for days, in the open cattle trucks, without food or shelter, and dying in numbers, rather than run the risk of losing the places they had secured, and of being left behind at the mercy of the Russians and Bulgarians.

The Porte has earnestly asked me to bring the state of things I have described to the notice of Her Majesty's Government, and to request them, in the name of humanity, to represent to the Russian Government the expediency of issuing a proclamation assuring the Mussulman population that if they do not abandon their homes they will be protected, and that their lives and honour will be safe. I telegraphed to your Lordship to this effect on the 19th instant.

It is needless for me to represent to your Lordship afresh the dreadful and almost unparalleled sufferings of the Mussulman fugitives. No words of mine would suffice to describe them. Englishmen, who have experience of the worst horrors of war and of the utmost depths of human misery, have declared to me that they have never before witnessed such heart-rending scenes as have been caused by this cruel and unrighteous war. Nor, they add, have they ever seen sufferings and misery borne with so much patience and resignation. Not a murmur of complaint is heard from the crowds of starving and half-frozen human beings that arrive here daily by the railway. They wait calmly and confidingly for the food that is prepared for them, and receive it with deep but quiet gratitude.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I have the honour to inclose an account, furnished to me by an English officer, Captain Allix, formerly of Her Majesty's Guards, of a journey he performed with one of the trains filled with fugitives. I would venture to ask your Lordship to read it, as it affords some idea of the result of the Russian invasion upon the Mahommedan populations, and of their terrible sufferings.

A. H. L.

January 23.—I beg to inclose copy of a letter referring to the same subject written by Mr. Masters, a gentleman who has been distributing relief from Lady Burdett Coutts' Compassionate Fund.

A. H. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 97.

Colonel Allix to Mr. Layard.

Your Excellency, 35, *Rue Venedik, Pera, January* 19, 1878.

ACCORDING to your Excellency's desire, I have the honour to write a short description of some of the intense sufferings I witnessed among the unfortunate refugees during my late journey from Tatar-Bazardjik to Constantinople.

On leaving Tatar-Bazardjik on Sunday, January 13, I found the whole road from the town to the railway station, about a mile and a-half, was lined with double and treble rows of arabas filled with fugitives and their belongings; these arabas in many cases driven by women and girls, with hardly any covering, and neither shoes nor stockings to protect their bare feet and legs from the intense cold which prevailed.

On arriving near the station the scene changed. There was what appeared to me to be one vast camp; the wretched people had broken up their arabas to make fires, around which, huddled up in groups, they sat, endeavouring to extract what warmth they could, but, now that their arabas were burned, with absolutely no shelter day or night from the terrible cold.

Arrived at the station, I found one long train composed of sheep and cattle waggons and open coal trucks, in all about forty carriages, but with no engine. This train was already crammed to repletion; in many instances hand-to-hand fights being resorted to to obtain places. The confusion was terrible, mothers vainly seeking their children, husbands their wives. Not only did the refugees cram themselves into the trucks in such numbers that there was no room to move, but they clambered on to the tops of the snow-covered carriages, crowded on to the side boards and even on the buffers. They laid their planks over these latter, and then seven or eight men would crouch in this dangerous position. Any attempt to move them was absolutely futile; they would rather have been shot than let go of the train, as they imagined, their only hope of safety. By Suleiman Pasha's orders we telegraphed for three trains to come up at once to carry away as many as possible.

About two hours after the reply came back. The first train dispatched was taken by force by the fugitives at the first station; on seeing its approach they laid their women and children across the rails to prevent its passing. Any attempt to get trains up hopeless, owing "to the panic. Have dispatched a single engine."

The engine arrived, and at about 4 o'clock we started with our load of forty waggons and their occupants. At every station we came to we found two, sometimes three, long trains waiting to be taken on, and crowded in the same way. The poor little children and women, and, indeed, men, on the tops of the carriages and in the open trucks literally benumbed with cold. Mothers with infants at breast vainly endeavouring to shelter them and hush their cries. During the night we came to some steep inclines, and the engine could not draw the heavy load. We were therefore obliged to cut it in half, and the cries of the unfortunate people, who thought they were to be left to the mercies of the Cossacks and Bulgarians in consequence, were dreadful. Soon after occurred one of the most harrowing scenes I ever witnessed, and I have witnessed many on the battle-field. The night was a brilliant moonlight, but bitterly cold, with a cutting wind.

We came to an incline too steep for even the lightened train to mount. We had, therefore, to back the train to get a fresh impetus; presently we heard a grating, crashing noise, and the engine (on which I was riding) bumped heavily; some thought would leave the metals. On stopping the train, we jumped off to ascertain the cause. It appeared that in backing the boards placed by the fugitives upon the buffers had become displaced, and several of the people had fallen through between the metals; some escaped, some were dreadfully wounded. One man I saw with all his fingers cut off, another had both his legs cut off at the thighs; he still lived, but we could do nothing for him. The worst, however, was two poor men, who had been caught by the iron cattle-guard in front of the engine, and dragged back and crunched into a shapeless mass under the engine. We had great difficulty in disentangling them from the train.

Notwithstanding this fearful warning, such was their terror at being left behind, that they still persisted on riding on the buffers and the side-boards. One man I found afterwards actually asleep on the buffers in front of the engine. As we proceeded, I saw poor little children, with bare arms and legs, lying, with pinched, worn faces, upturned in the moonlight, thrown off the tops of the carriages, as they died from cold or hunger. In many instances, where they were too closely packed to remove them, the dead remained in the carriages with the living.

I afterwards learnt that no less than five corpses were taken out of one carriage alone.

At the bridge near Tirnova eight children were thrown into the river; of these three were picked up alive. Owing to the line being a single one, the difficulty of transporting this moving population, for such it is, is enormous, and, consequently, trains of these wretched people were kept waiting days and nights, utterly exposed to the incessant snow and driving blasts, scantily clad, and half-starving. One train I saw where the people had remained packed for four days in the waggons without moving.

Such was their terror that nothing would persuade them to leave the carriages for fear of losing their places. As dysentery and diarrhœa was extremely prevalent among them, the filth and stench, as may be imagined, was appalling. In one instance no less than fifteen women were huddled into a place used to sweep the manure into in a cattle-waggon, a place corresponding somewhat to a dog-box on an English railway.

Upon Colonel Blunt opening the door, the rush of fetid air caused him to turn quite sick and faint. There were also many sheep-waggons where the people were packed in three tiers one above the other; here they could not even sit upright, a space allotted to sheep being hardly suitable for human beings. We passed another train where they cried mournfully "Ekmek Ekmek-Ekmek," and it appears that they had no food for two days. I myself was kept on the road for two days and three nights between Tatar-Bazardjik and Tirnova, and then, owing to an accident on the line higher up, it was stated that it would be some days before we could proceed. This added to the misery and confusion, as nothing would induce the fugitives to believe this was really the case. No, they said, we are to be left to our fate, and they will not receive us at Stamboul.

In many cases the poor wretches, rendered desperate by their terrible situation, Russians in their rear, a block in front, and starvation in the present, threatened the station-masters, that if they did not send them on they would kill them and burn the stations and the trains to get warmth. The position of the officials was certainly perilous, and those at Tirnova behaved admirably. On arriving at Tchorlou the scene changed. A flag bearing the initials S. H. C. floated on a house near the station, and I found Colonel Blunt, of Lady Burdett-Coutts' Compassionate Fund, and others busily employed feeding the multitude.

Huge caldrons of soup there were, refilled as speedily as emptied, and kept boiling day and night. Hot rice, loaves of bread in thousands, and shelter and warmth for most of the women and children. I feel sure that the efforts of this society saved the lives of many and many a hundred at this station alone. It was, as it were, a half-way house, and without it the effects would have been terrible. I here left the line and rode across country to Ridosto.

In the course of my military duties with the Turkish army I have ridden over a great part of Bulgaria, and everywhere without exception have witnessed the same thing. The entire population of Turks moving, in mass, possessed by an almost indescribable terror.

Happy homes broken up, villages burned, country devastated, children and women wailing piteously as they said, where are we to go?

We hear that through your Excellency's strenuous efforts much, very much, has been done to alleviate the sufferings of these poor people, but nothing could ever obliterate the dreadful scenes that have occurred or the intense suffering inflicted on these unoffending women and children.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL ALLIX, *Colonel, Turkish Army, Aide-de-camp to Baker Pasha.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 97.

Mr. Masters to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, January 22, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that after working at the railway station here for four days and two nights I proceeded to Tchorlu, taking with me 2,300 okes of bread, some of which I distributed at the different stations along the line, and the balance I took with me to Tchorlu. The scenes at the different stations were heart-rending. I passed a train filled with refugees at every station, each train containing about 2,000 people; to some of these I distributed bread, and I left with the different station-masters a certain quantity to distribute. When I arrived at Tchorlu I found Colonel Blunt ill; he had been working for four days and was quite knocked up. There

were seven loaded trains in the station crowded with men, women, and children; some of these trains had been two days and two nights coming from Adrianople. Each train consisted on an average of about eighty waggons, most of them open, seventy people being in each waggon. Colonel Blunt had distributed several thousand okes of bread during the four days he had been there. I soon disposed of the supply which I brought up with me from Constantinople, giving to each person half an oke. A great quantity of hot soup was also supplied, but this I am sorry to say I had to knock off, as I found the expense far too heavy. A great many women and children had died on their way from Adrianople, and about thirty-five died at Tchorlu. The scene at the station on Friday was an awful one. The cold was intense. I could just manage to feed the people, but I could not keep the cold away. Corpse after corpse came out of the trucks and was carried away and buried. Men who were once strong, women both young and old, children of all ages, it was an awful sight; and yet how quietly the refugees behaved. I hardly heard a murmur except from the Circassians, who threatened to burn the station if the station-master did not send on the trains at once; these gentlemen also attacked my bread-van with knives, but I managed to close the van in time. I came down to Constantinople on Sunday last, travelling in a refugee train crowded with people. Several people died during the journey; the corpses of the children were thrown out of the trucks to make more room for the other passengers. I saw a beautiful girl of about 18 years die from cold; she seemed to belong to the better class of Turks. I suffered from the cold very much on my journey down. What must the other poor people have done who were not clothed anything like what I was? When I arrived at Constantinople I was some time before I could move, all my limbs seemed frost-bitten.

I could write page after page to your Excellency concerning the sufferings of these poor people, but time will not permit me to do so. I must not conclude without mentioning the admirable conduct of the railway officials, from the highest to the lowest. Not once during this trying time did one of these men lose their temper, and I saw a great many acts of kindness done by them to the refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT P. MASTERS.

No. 98.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 95.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 21, 1878.*

COUNT ZICHY spoke to me this morning with reference to the consequences of a Russian occupation of Gallipoli and the Dardanelles—an event which, from the information that has reached his Excellency and myself, appears to be by no means impossible. Should it happen, the communications between Constantinople and the rest of Europe might be entirely cut off, and I might have no means of corresponding with the fleet. It appeared to Count Zichy and myself that, under these circumstances, it was very desirable that we should be furnished with instructions from our respective Governments as to the course we should pursue were the Straits to fall into Russian hands and be closed. We agreed, therefore, to ask for such instructions. I accordingly telegraphed to your Lordship on the subject this afternoon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 99.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 96.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 21, 1878.*

THE Porte has at last received a telegram to-day from the Turkish Plenipotentiaries, who had arrived at Kyzanlik, where the Grand Duke Nicholas has established his head-quarters, but it contains no information whatever as to their mission. It merely states that a telegram from the Porte had reached them; but they had been unable to decypher it, and requested that it might be repeated. This curt message has increased the suspicions of the Porte that the Russians are delaying the negotiations with the object of overrunning a large part of Roumelia before an armistice is effected.

News had been received at the same time, at the Ministry of War, that Suleiman Pasha had effected his retreat from Philippopolis, and had reached Drama with a large force.

He has telegraphed for transports to be sent to Cavalla to embark the troops under his command. It is thought that a part of this force might be landed at Gallipoli for the defence of the Boulair lines, the remainder being brought to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 100.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 97.)
Constantinople, January 21, 1878.

My Lord,

THE greatest anxiety is felt by the Porte to obtain an answer to its request, forwarded through me, to Her Majesty's Government on the 19th instant, that Her Majesty's fleet should be ordered to Besika Bay or to Makri, in order to be ready to enter the Dardanelles as soon as the Russians approached them. From the information which has been received from various independent sources, there appears to be little doubt that a Russian detachment is marching in the direction of Gallipoli. As no news has yet been received from the Turkish Plenipotentiaries, the Porte entertains great fears that the negotiations for peace and armistice are being purposely delayed in order that time may be gained to enable the Russian forces to occupy Adrianople and the Gallipoli Peninsula before a suspension of hostilities can be brought about.

I would venture to ask whether Her Majesty's Government are prepared for the consequences which might ensue to the interests of England in the event of the seizure of the Dardanelles by Russia? I trust that it may not be considered that I have been wanting in my duty in not giving sufficient and timely warning on the subject. As your Lordship, in your telegram of the 12th instant, instructed me not to interfere as to the lines of Boulair, I have not taken any measures to prevail upon the Porte to send an adequate force to hold them. I feel, therefore, that I should be under a very heavy responsibility if they were taken by the Russians, and grave injury to British interests were the result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 101.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 98.)
Constantinople, January 21, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 95 of to-day, the French Chargé d'Affaires spoke to me this evening of the intention attributed to the Russians of making an immediate advance upon Gallipoli for the purpose of taking possession of the Dardanelles, and of the serious consequences that might ensue should they succeed in doing so. M. de Moüy said that he had telegraphed very urgently on the subject to his Government. The information that he had received as to the movements of Russian troops in the direction of Gallipoli was similar to that which had reached the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador and myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 102.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 99.)
Constantinople, January 22, 1878.

My Lord,

THE British Vice-Consul at Scio and Tchesmé reports that the recent edict, by which Christians are rendered liable to military service, has caused great alarm among the rayahs in this district.

They declare that the meaning of the Firman is not clear, and that they cannot tell whether it is the intention of the Government to send them at once to the front or to enrol them in the National Guard.

Those that have the means are leaving for Greece, and others who are not able to do so avow their intention of resisting any attempt to send them away from their homes.

M. Aramissaki adds that the formation of purely Christian regiments would be not unattended with danger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 103.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 100.)
Constantinople, January 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 103.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, January 13, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state that, in conformity with your Excellency's instruction of the 7th instant, I have taken an opportunity of informing Djemil Pasha, privately, that your Excellency will avail yourself of an occasion to bring his conduct, as reported by me, to the favourable notice of the Porte.

His Excellency desired me to thank your Excellency for your kind message, and to add his sense of gratitude for the interest you take in him in these difficult and trying times.

Your Excellency will, I feel sure, read with pleasure the inclosed copy of an address which the Consular Corps here have unanimously adopted and sent to his Excellency, expressing their acknowledgments for his firm, conciliatory, and humane conduct as Governor-General of this province.

I may add that many members of the foreign community here have also conveyed to Djemil Pasha verbally their sense of obligation towards his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 103.

Letter addressed by the Consular Corps at Adrianople to Djemil Pasha.

Andrinople, le 12 Janvier, 1878.

M. le Vali,

LORSQUE votre Excellence est arrivée à Andrinople pour y occuper le poste de Commandant Militaire, elle a trouvé la ville dans une situation critique. Grâce à nos efforts l'ordre a été retabli et la sécurité des habitants complètement assurée.

Comme Vali, votre Excellence a redoublé de zèle et de devouement, et son humanité a rendu la confiance.

Touché des dispositions particulièrement favorables dont votre Excellence n'a cessé

de lui donner des preuves et du concours empressé qu'il a constamment rencontré auprès d'elle, le Corps Consulaire d'Andrinople, d'un commun accord, a tenu à rendre hommage à la conduite à la fois ferme et conciliante du Gouverneur-Général, auquel il adresse la présente, en témoignage de ses sentiments de reconnaissance.

Nous prions, &c.

(Signé) M. BADETTI, *Consul de Belgique.*
M. BADETTI, *Consul de Suède et Norvège.*
J. E. BLUNT, *Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique pour Salonique et Andrinople.*
M. P. FLESCH, *Consul, Chargé du Vice-Consulat de France.*
N. GENNADIUS, *Consul de Sa Majesté Hellenique.*
CHARLES SAX, *Consul Impérial et Royal d'Autriche-Hongrie.*
B. BADETTI, *Vice-Consul de Danemark.*
A. VERNAZZA, *Vice-Consul d'Espagne.*
F. VERNAZZA, *Agent Consulaire d'Italie.*
TORRES, *Vice-Consul d'Allemagne.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 103.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, January* 13, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Portadji Mustafa Aga, the Acting Kaimakam of Kyzanlik, arrived here yesterday, and has reported to the Governor-General that he and all the Turkish population of that town fled from there the day after the Russians debouched through the Issova and Hamidli Passes; that before his departure two Turkish women of the village of Issova, who were wounded, arrived there, and as they were not in a state to be taken on, they were left in the Turkish military hospital.

According to the account given to the Acting Governor by these women, more than a hundred men, women, and children, were massacred the day the Russian troops occupied their village.

In the meanwhile the whole of the Turkish population of the Kyzanlik district and of the Tundja valley generally have taken flight, some in the direction of Philippopolis by way of Calofer, and others in that of Eski-Zaghra and Karabunar.

Many of these last are beginning to arrive here, and, owing to the severe weather now prevailing, are in a far worse plight than those who fled in the months of July and August last.

The Governor-General received this morning a telegram from the Governor of Kustendel, stating that all the Turkish inhabitants of that town have fled towards Hounanova and Uskup, and that many of the fugitives have been massacred by Bulgarian insurgents.

The panic continues everywhere, and all, rich and poor, seized with the idea that to stay would be almost certain death, are flying for their lives. All the Turkish notables here have sent away their families, and there is a general exodus of the Mahommedan population, some going in bullock waggons; but most by the railway. There are heart-rending scenes at the railway station and the fields in its vicinity, which are full of destitute fugitives waiting for the trains, and as soon as an empty train arrives it is besieged by crowds of desperate people, who not only fill by force the carriages, waggons, and trucks, but clamber in large numbers on to the roofs. Many women and children are trampled to death in the struggle to secure places, while others drop off the slippery roofs on the way, or are dragged off by other fugitives at the intermediate stations. Those who are left behind, and they are to be numbered by thousands, bivouac in the snow-covered fields, and many of them are frozen to death every night.

Whilst Suleiman Pasha, after communicating with the Porte, gave orders yesterday that the trains between this and Philippopolis should not go beyond Tirnova-Selimenli, which is the point of junction of the Yamboli line; this morning Safvet Pasha, who, it appears, holds a command independent of Suleiman Pasha, has sent a pressing request to the Governor-General here to send with all possible dispatch as many trains as he can to Philippopolis, for the removal of the Turkish population there.

Djemil Pasha immediately applied to the Porte for instructions, but I have not heard with what result.

I need not report to your Excellency on the military situation, as Captain Fife will doubtless continue to keep your Excellency informed on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 103.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, January* 15, 1878.

AT 1 o'clock this afternoon I addressed to your Excellency a telegram worded as follows:—

"Eight trains with fugitives leave to-day for Tchorlu. It is reported that a special train has left Constantinople to-day for Karabunar with Ottoman delegates to treat conditions of peace."

It is needless to refer again to the sufferings of the fugitives, further than to say that it is a fact that large numbers of them have died and are dying from cold and starvation.

Captain Fife's servant, who arrived this afternoon by road from Philippopolis, found the highway strewn with dead bodies. They rescued from death and brought on here three Turkish children whom they found abandoned by the way.

The Local Civil Administration is at a standstill, most of the Departments and Tribunals being closed, owing to the departure of their *personnel*. The Cadi left two days ago, and the Defterdar, or Receiver of Taxes, goes to-morrow with the records of his department and the chest, and the Governor-General is left to carry on public affairs almost alone.

He is assisted only by the Secretary-General and one or two clerks. Sheriff Bey, Rifaat Effendi, and Salib Bey, notables of this place, and Members of the Ottoman Parliament, are also here doing their best in behalf of the fugitives.

In the meantime the town is becoming full of stragglers from the army, most of them irregulars, whose presence at the present crisis is a source of difficulty to the authorities and of uneasiness to the Christian population. I was present to-day when the Greek Archbishop and the Armenian Bishop waited on Djemil Pasha, with the leading members of their respective communities to express to his Excellency their acknowledgments for his indefatigable exertions in maintaining and ensuring public tranquillity. The Greek Archbishop declared that owing to the severity of the winter, and the want of means of transport, none of the Greek community (which, next to the Turkish, is the largest here) could leave the town. He begged his Excellency to press upon the military authorities the urgent desirability of removing, if possible, out of the town the stragglers from the army, and of increasing the patrols. The community, he said, had the utmost confidence in the Turkish regular troops, but the alarm felt by them could not subside so long as the irregulars were allowed to remain here. His Excellency at once addressed an official representation to the military Commandant, Eyoub Pasha, in the sense of the Archbishop's request. The Consular Corps will also hold a meeting to-night for the purpose of considering the present critical state of affairs in connexion with the safety of the persons and property of their respective fellow-countrymen.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 103.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Adrianople, January* 15, 1878.

WITH reference to that part of my telegram of to-day's date which relates to the despatch of Ottoman delegates to arrange terms of peace, I have heard from a sure source that the Sultan has taken this step on the advice of his Ministers after a direct and prolonged telegraphic conference with Ahmed Eyoub, Mehemet Ali, and Djemil Pashas.

It appears that at 1 o'clock this morning the Turkish Ministers, after holding a

council at the War Office, summoned the above Pashas to the Telegraph Office and obtained from them a full account of the present military situation.

The two Mushirs plainly declared that it was vain to expect that Suleiman Pasha could now effect his retreat upon Adrianople; that the Russians would soon occupy this place, denuded as it is of the force indispensable for its defence; and that there would then be nothing to prevent the enemy from marching upon the capital.

As they at the same time denounced Suleiman as the immediate author of this desperate state of affairs, the Ministers unanimously proposed his recall. The Mushirs, however, replied that it was now too late, and that a change in the command could only further aggravate the situation.

It was in consequence of these representations that the Ministers waited upon the Sultan, as I have said, advising that delegates should be sent to meet the Russian military authorities in the field with proposals for peace.

As regards military operations, it is certain that the Turkish Commanders have caused the Sémenli Railway bridge to be destroyed in consequence of the presence of Cossacks in that neighbourhood. Captain Fife reports on this subject to your Excellency.

Telegraphic communication between Philippopolis and Adrianople has been interrupted since 2 o'clock this morning, and the latest news we have received from that place respecting Suleiman Pasha's movements is to the effect that the battle which took place yesterday between Philippopolis and Tatar-Bazardjik resulted in the defeat of the Turkish forces, and that the latter were retiring upon Stanimaka, and taking a southerly direction towards Akkir-Ichéleli. But this report appears to be, under the circumstances, scarcely credible; and as the source from which it emanates, although generally well-informed, is not official, I am inclined, upon the whole, to disbelieve it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 104.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 101.)
Constantinople, January 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an official communication made to the Turkish newspapers with reference to the measures taken by the Porte to maintain order in Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 104.

Extract from "La Turquie" of January 22, 1878.

NOUS traduisons des journaux Turcs la communication officielle suivante :—

Il est parvenu à la connaissance du Gouvernement qu'à la suite de l'arrivée de l'ennemi dans la région d'Andrinople, divers propos circulent parmi la population de la capitale.

Il est vrai en effet, que l'invasion n'est avancée jusqu'à Andrinople, mais le Gouvernement s'occupe avec assiduité et promptitude des mesures nécessaires prescrites par les circonstances.

Tout indique que nous approchons de la paix. La Russie ayant consenti à faire la paix, le Gouvernement Impérial a envoyé tout dernièrement à Kyzoulik, auprès du Commandant-en-chef des troupes Russes, les Plénipotentiaires Server Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et Namyk Pacha, Ministre de la Liste Civile. Les négociations ont commencé.

Cependant si la guerre doit continuer, le Gouvernement, dans sa résolution de résister jusqu'à toute extrémité, s'occupe de mettre les points nécessaires stratégiques en état d'opposer une sérieuse défense à l'ennemi. Le Gouvernement travaille nuit et jour pour compléter ces préparatifs.

Il est plus que jamais du devoir du Gouvernement de travailler au maintien de la sécurité et de la tranquillité dans la capitale, dans ces circonstances exceptionnellement graves.

La population, par son zèle et son dévouement, doit y contribuer par une conduite

sage et continuer à vaquer tranquillement à ses affaires, soucieuse du maintien de l'ordre et de la tranquillité dans la ville; car dans ces moments de crise il se trouvera des malveillants, traîtres à l'Etat et à la patrie, qui chercheront à jeter l'alarme et à faire cesser la confiance de la population, afin de profiter de l'impression que leurs efforts malveillants produiront.

Il n'y a pas de doute que les habitants de toutes les classes de la capitale non seulement ne prêteront pas l'oreille à des propos malveillants et séditieux, mais encore qu'ils insisteront pour la punition de ceux qui feraient répandre ces propos.

Toutefois, ceux qui y prêteront l'oreille et, imitant la conduite de ceux qui mettent en circulation de pareils bruits alarmants, se porteront à des actes et faits de nature à troubler la tranquillité publique;

Attendu que de cette manière ils servent les intentions de l'ennemi;

Attendu que dans ce cas ils sont considérés eux-mêmes comme ennemis de l'Etat et du pays;

Il a été décidé qu'ils seront, conformément à la loi de l'état de siége, punis suivant le degré de leur culpabilité. La peine capitale pourra, dans le cas, être aussi appliquée.

Ces mesures de police pourront, en cas de besoin, être exécutées par le moyen des troupes régulières.

Des ordres en conséquence ont été donnés au Ministère de la Police.

No. 105.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 106.)
Constantinople, January 23, 1878.

My Lord,

MR. CONSUL SANDWITH, in his despatch to me, No. 2 of the 7th instant (copy of which was sent by him to your Lordship), gives an account of an attack made upon Mr. Trifilli, the British Consular Agent at Rethymo. Yesterday Count Zichy called upon me with a despatch from the Austro-Hungarian Consul at Crete, giving a somewhat similar account of what had happened to Mr. Trifilli, who appears to be the Austro-Hungarian Vice-Consul at Rethymo. Mr. Trifilli had requested that an Austrian man-of-war should be sent at once to that place, and that the persons who had taken part in the attack upon him should be arrested and signally and publicly punished. The Austro-Hungarian Consul expressed his opinion that as the Mutessarif Pasha (Governor) of Rethymo had called upon Mr. Trifilli to offer an apology for his ill-treatment by the mob, and as two of the ringleaders had been arrested and imprisoned, sufficient satisfaction had been given, and that it was not desirable, under present circumstances, to insist upon further reparation.

Count Zichy said that he quite concurred in this opinion, and thought that in the actual state of the Island of Crete, it would not be prudent or desirable to take further steps in this matter. I told his Excellency that I agreed with him, and that I should limit myself to communicating the substance of Mr. Sandwith's despatch to the Porte, unless otherwise instructed by your Lordship. His Excellency thanked me for the desire I showed to act with him in this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 106.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 107.)
Constantinople, January 23, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a further report that I have received from Vice-Consul Brophy with respect to the destruction of villages in the neighbourhood of Bourgas, and to the pillage of that town by Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks. I earnestly hope that the reports he mentions of the massacres of Christians are exaggerated. I shall endeavour to find means to verify them.

I shall send back the "Torch" with Mr. Brophy to Bourgas, and request Captain Hamond to visit Varna in order that I may obtain some information as to the condition of affairs in Eastern Bulgaria, and in case his presence there may be necessary for the protection of British subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 106.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, January 22, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to send in to your Excellency a report concerning the evacuation of Bourgas and the circumstances connected therewith, more in detail than that which I had time to furnish in my despatch of January 17, written on board Her Majesty's ship "Torch."

On the 13th January I received intelligence that the towns of Karnabad and Aidos, respectively 30 and 16 miles from Bourgas, had been abandoned and burnt by order of the Turkish Government, and I telegraphed this information to your Excellency. At Karnabad, which contained over 3,000 Bulgarian, and rather fewer Mussulman inhabitants, it appears that the Kaïmakam left before the mass of the population; the town being then in a state of anarchy, the Christians assembled together in the larger houses with the idea of mutual protection, and of these, one at least, belonging to Alexic Notchoff, and containing 300 Rayahs, was besieged and set on fire by Circassians, Albanians, and a few of the worst characters amongst the Turks of Karnabad. Of these 300, about 12 are said to have escaped, and a girl who was one of the survivors, and had 15 of her relatives murdered there, described to me the manner in which the two priests who had taken refuge there were killed: one, the elder, by having his head cut off, and the other by sword cuts across the stomach. Up to the present time, I only know of about 500 Bulgarians who reached Bourgas from Karnabad, but in spite of sinister rumours I trust that many others may have made their way to Yamboli or elsewhere, and so, perhaps, to Constantinople.

At Aidos, the Kaïmakam sent off the whole of the population (about 2,500 Bulgarians, and as many Turks), and then himself fired the konak and sent men to set fire to the town in various places; no lives were lost within the town of Aidos itself.

On the 15th instant, the town of Bourgas was ordered to be evacuated, and the Kaïmakam informed me, verbally, that he was afraid it would be burnt. On the previous day I had written, in conjunction with my colleagues of Austria, Italy, and Greece, begging the Governor to give us some hours' notice in case he received orders to burn Bourgas, in order that we might take the necessary measures for the safety of foreigners and their interests; the Governor demanded, by telegraph, instructions from Adrianople, but, as far as I know, received no answer.

For some few days previously, the Mussulman refugees from the interior, who had arrived in great numbers at Bourgas, had been, to a certain extent, shipped on board Turkish men-of-war for transport, I believe, to Asia; the Christians were nominally invited to avail themselves of these ships, but the Turkish emigrants refused to allow them to enter the boats, drawing knives and firing pistols in order to secure their own places; however, no Rayah was in any way injured by them.

On this day (the 15th), I transferred my lighter effects and the papers of my office to Her Majesty's ship "Torch," Commander Hamond, then in Bourgas Bay, and as the Kaïmakam begged Captain Hamond to take away from the shore as many of the Christians as he could, the boats of the "Torch" were employed till sunset in carrying on board as many Bulgarian, Greek, and Jewish refugees as could be crowded together on her upper deck, in all, between 500 and 600. The Kaïmakam kindly sent down a small guard of marines from the "Selimié" corvette to aid in keeping order at the head of the pier.

On the 16th the British steam-tug "Alexandre," of Constantinople, arrived in the Bay, and as the Kaïmakam still urged Captain Hamond to do his utmost to take off the Christians, Captain Hamond chartered the tug in the name of the British Government, and transferred to her about 450 fugitives for passage to Constantinople; he then took off more refugees from the shore to his own ship, the Governor most considerately furnishing the "Torch" with 1,940 lbs. of biscuit, for which no charge was made, towards the subsistence of the emigrants.

On the 17th instant, the Austrian Lloyd's steamer "Nil" arrived, and generously offered to take on board for passage to Constantinople, gratis, about 400 Christian emigrants, who were conveyed from the shore by her own boats and those of the "Torch." On the same day the Austrian steam-tug "Foscolo," towing a large lighter, came into the bay, and on the 18th took off, also without payment, 150 more Rayahs from the "Torch."

Captain Hamond, the officers, the boats, and the crew of the "Torch," were employed for four days, generally from morning till night, in carrying off the refugees

from the shore, and thus succeeded in bringing or sending to Constantinople upwards of 1,200 men, women, and children, almost all of whom are destitute of everything, many not having even a blanket to cover them. Whilst repeating that it was at the urgent request of the Kaïmakam that Captain Hamond continued his charitable task, I am glad to be able to testify to the manner in which he (the Governor) assisted us in every way in his power; his conduct throughout this critical time was admirable, although, unfortunately, the force at his disposal was too small to maintain strict order in the town.

From the 15th to the 18th, Captain Hamond, his officers, or myself, escorted to the beach about 200 Christians from the houses or churches in which they had shut themselves up, and whence they sent letters imploring us to take them away, as they were afraid to pass through the town without a guard; on every one of our journeys for this purpose we saw Circassian and other Mussulman Bashi-Bazouks plundering and breaking into the houses and shops, or stripping of his coat any stray Christian who was ill-advised enough to walk the streets.

The scenes amongst the Christian refugees from the interior were naturally very distressing; some of them said that they had seen their children murdered before their eyes by Circassians. Few of them had been able to bring with them more than they could carry, and very many who a fortnight ago were not only well off, but comparatively rich, are now literally beggars, having abandoned or been plundered of all they possessed.

There were several Greek merchant ships in harbour, some of which were chartered by the richer fugitives at exhorbitant prices; I heard a Greek boatman ask 8*l.* to pull a single passenger a distance under a mile, and none would take less than 1*l.*

On the 18th instant Captain Hamond determined to steam to Constantinople, as he had then 310 refugees on board, and his provisions were beginning to run short, there being neither bread, meat, firewood, nor drinkable water procurable at Bourgas, and no longer any British interests there, I arranged to accompany him.

During our farewell visit to the Kaïmakam, he informed us that on the previous day the inhabitants of Roum Yenikeui, a Greek village of about 200 houses, 8 miles from Bourgas, had been nearly all massacred by Circassians and Albanians; this report, as well as that of the slaughter at Karnabad, and also at Cayali, a village belonging to M. Zarifi, is confirmed by persons who have arrived to-day from Bourgas, and who state that at Roum Yenikeui the leader of the bands was a certain Nourri Bey, captain (or ex-captain) in the army, who was last year sent by the Porte to drill the "gardes champêtres" of M. Zarifi at Cayali.

From the same source I hear that Bourgas has not been burnt, though of course it has been most thoroughly plundered; at the town of Achialo, 5 miles to the north of Bourgas, and to here, there are thousands of fugitives. The Turks and Christians have made common cause to defend themselves against the Circassians. As far as I can learn the perpetrators of these outrages seem to be almost entirely Circassians and Albanians, with a few, but very few, Turks amongst them, but the complete absence of troops from the neighbourhood of Bourgas has, I fear, been the cause of terrible excesses on the part of these banditti. As I was leaving the pier at Bourgas, I spoke with an old Turkish Hodja from Karnabad whom I knew well, and who told me that Circassians had robbed him and his family on the road, and that he saw them killing Christian and Jewish fugitives, who cried to him for help but he could do nothing.

The town of Slimnia, chef-lieu of the Sandjak, has been plundered and burnt, and I am told by Turks that not a village from Slimnia to the sea-coast has escaped plunder, whilst most of the Christian villages have been burnt; yet up to the day I left Bourgas I had reason to believe that no Russians had been seen within 60 miles of that town.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 107.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 108.)

Constantinople, January 23, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 79 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further Report from Commander Hamond, of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," respecting the embarkation of Christian fugitives at Bourgas and their conveyance to Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 107.

Commander Hamond to Mr. Layard.

"*Torch*," *Constantinople, January* 20, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," with Mr. Brophy, the English Vice-Consul at Bourgas, on board. Also that I have brought some 300 Christian refugees, who were homeless and starving on the beach. There was no provision made on the part of the authorities for their embarkation, only Mussulmans being taken in the man of war's boats to the "Selimié"; and the Kaimakam, through the Vice-Consul, implored me to get the Christians away, as the force was inadequate to keep Circassians and others in check.

On the 15th instant the inhabitants were warned to leave their houses, and the Consular Agents were verbally told there was no safety for them in the town. In consequence of the British Vice-Consul's representation I manned the boats with the men armed, landed the marines to protect the embarkation, occupied one pier, and took on board boat-loads of men, women, and children until dark, by which time we had some 400 on board; also brought the Vice-Consul with his light effects.

On the 16th transferred refugees to "Alexander" tug, and sent you a despatch by her informing you shortly of the measures I had taken. In the afternoon, seeing houses to windward of town burning, landed boats and filled the ship with more Christian refugees. From the Kaimakam I obtained some 1900 lbs. of biscuit for their use.

On the 17th landed with the Vice-Consul, saw the shops being plundered; many mounted Circassians, Albanians, and strange Turks about the town; cart-loads of plunder being taken away from the town by them. The Austrian steamer "Nil" arrived; the Captain humanely offered a free passage to any people we could put on board.

In consequence of a letter imploring protection from Greeks who had locked themselves into the church, I proceeded there with Mr. Brophy, with four of my marines as an escort, and brought them to the beach and embarked them on board "Nil" by means of our boats and those which she sent to aid. On the afternoon of 17th "Selimié" withdrew her marine patrols and sailed.

Landed on morning of 18th, found the town was completely pillaged; saw the Kaimakam, who stated that at the Greek village of Roum Yenikeui a massacre had taken place the previous afternoon.

Forty zaptiehs arrived by an Austrian steamer that day.

The "Fuscolo" tug, with large Danube lighters, came alongside and took some 150 persons, M. Fuscolo, junior, having kindly offered to take them. We supplied them with water and as much biscuit as we could spare. As telegraphic communication was cut off from Constantinople, and having no instructions from you on the subject, the ship being crowded and my supply of provisions being insufficient for more than three or four days, I deemed it advisable to proceed immediately to Constantinople, bringing the Vice-Consul with me, as the town, with the exception of the Custom-house, was deserted, and no necessaries of life were attainable.

In conclusion, I have to state that during this time Mr. Brophy was of the utmost use to me, and was untiring in his exertions, using all his influence with the authorities and inhabitants to prevent excesses and preserve order.

The Kaimakam did the utmost he could with the small force at his disposal with the same object.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHD. H. HAMOND.

No. 108.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 109.)
Constantinople, January 25, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the report, as published in the "Turquie" newspaper, of the proceedings of the Turkish Chambers during the last week, accompanied by a summary drawn up by Mr. Jocelyn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 108.

Summary of Proceedings in the Ottoman Chambers.

THE sitting of the 17th January was chiefly taken up with a desultory discussion of technicalities, and an improved system of reporting the debates; and this was followed by one respecting the subscriptions contributed by the members of the Parliament towards feeding and clothing the refugees from the provinces.

A suggestion, which was made by a member, that the sum contributed by one of the Ministers was not in proportion to his income, was very quickly negatived, and a vote of thanks was proposed to Baron Hirsch for his great liberality in providing food for many of the most indigent.

The Law upon Civil Procedure was then introduced, and the sitting closed without any further discussion respecting its provisions.

At the opening of the sitting of the 19th the President explained that on the previous day (Friday) he had been received by His Majesty the Sultan, who had expressed his warmest sympathy with the deplorable condition of the refugees who had arrived in the capital, assuring him of his earnest wish to adopt every means to alleviate it, taking upon himself the office of President of the Committee of Assistance which the Chamber had appointed, and named the President of the Chamber to act as his representative.

One of the members here added that His Majesty had said that he was ready to sacrifice his life for the State and the nation, a declaration which had drawn tears from all who had heard it.

On the Chamber proceeding with the Law on Civil Procedure, Mehmed Ali Bey, member for Janina, examined in a well arranged speech the causes which, unless removed, will prevent the Government from attaining the object it has in view in adopting new laws, and from appointing capable and competent officials to fill its most important posts.

The first cause is the system which mixes up the attributes of the Governors-General and Governors. All branches of administration are centralized in their hands, and, very naturally, they are not able to accomplish their work. The speaker then with considerable eloquence pointed out the necessity for decentralization, and for each department being solely responsible for its own attributes and duties.

The second cause, he said, was the absence of any regular professional advancements among the officials. A good and efficient judge does not alone require to know the country in which he is about to administer justice, he must be brought up to his profession and learn jurisprudence.

The persons occupying the lower grades of the profession should be made to feel that they are capable of rising to the highest, and schools of jurisprudence are of the first importance.

The third obstacle to progress was, he said, the existence of grades, especially in the Civil Service. These have been grossly misapplied, and often bestowed upon utterly unserving persons. They should be altogether suppressed, and advancement made to depend upon merit only.

The speaker sat down amidst much applause, and his very lucid discourse was warmly approved by several members, who illustrated the evils he had depicted by occurrences within their own provinces.

A critical discussion on a new emission of paper-money proposed by the Government, was then entered upon, and after receiving replies from a functionary whom the Department of Finance had deputed to attend, the Chamber proceeded with the reading of the Law of Civil Procedure.

On the 21st January the member for Aleppo made a statement regarding the financial situation. The War Department alone, he said, shows a deficit of 25,000,000 Turkish pounds arising from the depreciation of paper money, and supposing that the other Departments lose 15,000,000 from the same cause, it is evident that the State has incurred a loss of 40,000,000 in order to put into circulation 9,000,000.

The evil was increasing, and the attention of the Chamber should be directed without delay to the means of preventing it. The proposal was at once sent down to be examined by the Financial Committee.

Daviehon Effendi, deputy for Yanina, then ascended the tribune, and in a very remarkable speech drew an admirable picture of the financial condition of the Empire, contrasting its present ruined state with the comparatively flourishing times which it enjoyed before the present enormous national debt was incurred.

After examining in detail the nature of the various loans contracted lately by the

Porte, he concluded by asking five important questions, to which he said he wished the Minister of Finance to reply.

Those questions regarded the loans contracted and the floating debt of Turkey within the last two years, and the Chamber approved and seconded the speaker in his wish for a reply to them.

The sitting was closed after the reading of the report of the Committee for the succour of the refugees, when it appeared that the sum already subscribed in their favour had reached nearly half a million of piastres.

No. 109.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 111.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 23, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter from Mr. Black, the representative of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Adrianople, relating to the services rendered by the Governor-General Djemil Pasha and Consul Blunt in maintaining order and protecting foreign subjects in that city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 109.

Mr. Black to Mr. Foster.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Adrianople, January 18, 1878.*

A MUNICIPAL patrol has been organized to keep watch; in the town this night and at this moment everything is perfectly quiet.

Our Vali has done his duty well, admirably well to the last, and has won the esteem, gratitude, and admiration of all, both Christian and Turk, and our Consul, Mr. Blunt, has throughout behaved in a manner beyond praise. He has been untiring in his efforts to prevent anything that might lead to dispute. To the British subjects he has acted in a manner that has won for him their deepest sense of gratitude. He is doing his duty like a man, and the British subjects are fortunate at a time like this to have the support of a gentleman like Mr. Blunt. Might I take the liberty of begging you when you see Mr. Layard to let his Excellency know the deep obligation under which the British subjects are to Mr. Blunt under these trying circumstances.

No. 110.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 23, 1878.*

I RECEIVED, early yesterday morning, your Lordship's telegram of the 21st instant, transmitting to me one addressed on the same day by your Lordship to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, directing his Excellency to inform Prince Gortchakow that Her Majesty's Government were glad to have received the pledge of the Russian Government that they had no intention of directing their military operations on Gallipoli, unless Turkish regular troops should concentrate there, and that Her Majesty's Government contemplated no occupation of that position under present circumstances.

I thought it desirable to communicate without loss of time the substance of your Lordship's telegram to the Porte, although not specially authorized by your Lordship to do so, as I had learnt that great efforts were being made by the Turkish military authorities to collect troops, and to send them to Gallipoli, for the purpose of defending the Boulair lines against a Russian attack.

I received this morning a message from the Porte in reply, requesting me to inform Her Majesty's Government that it had learnt with great satisfaction the pledge given to them by Prince Gortchakow that there were at the present time but three battalions at Gallipoli for the purpose of maintaining order and preventing the Mussulman population from flying from the place in a panic, and that if Her Majesty's Government would

authorize me to communicate officially, in their name, to the Turkish Government the pledge given by Prince Gortchakow no more troops should be sent there.

Not being authorized by your Lordship to make any such official communication, I at once telegraphed to your Lordship for instructions on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 111.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 7. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, January 21, 1878.*

I HAD the honour, in my despatch No. 2 of the 7th instant, to communicate to your Lordship my suspicions that certain influential Mussulmans of this town and of Candia and Rethymo were the instigators of the migration of the Mussulman peasantry into those towns. Costaki Pasha has just informed me that the authorities have found indications of the complicity of some Mussulmans of Candia and Rethymo in this criminal work, and they are to be immediately banished the island. That there are others in this town guilty of the same wicked conduct there can be no reasonable doubt, but they are known to be protected by the Mussulman Counsellor, and so escape the fate that awaits their fellows in crime. The evil wrought by these men has been already accomplished, for the migratory movement, which was arrested for a moment, has started afresh, and has extended to the eastern extremity of the island.

Although a month has elapsed since the arrival of the Commissioners without their being fairly started on their work, Costaki Pasha's presence in Crete during this critical time has been of great value. He is incessantly combatting the evil influences which gather around the konak, and strengthens the hands of the well-intentioned but feeble Vali, who before the arrival of this prudent coadjutor committed not a few errors of judgment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 112.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 67. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, January 25, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, giving the substance of a despatch dated the 20th instant, from Lord Odo Russell, relative to an intention of Count Andrassy to promote the idea of a Conference, with a view to the sanction of Europe being obtained to a new state of things in Turkey, to the advantage of Austria, but not of Italy, without bloodshed, I have the honour to report that, in the interview which I had with M. Depretis this morning, when I informed him of the conditions of peace accepted by the Porte, I took advantage of his remark as to the entire absence of any mention being made of Bosnia and Herzegovina in those conditions, of endeavouring to ascertain from his Excellency whether, in the event of Austria claiming a rectification of frontier, Italy would do so likewise.

His Excellency having replied that an extension of the Austrian power in the Adriatic provinces would create a very bad effect in this country, I asked his Excellency whether he really believed that there was any very strong feeling in Italy upon the question.

M. Depretis stated that at this moment the attention of the country was chiefly absorbed by internal questions, the inauguration of the new reign, &c., but that certainly if Austria was to extend her frontier on the side of Bosnia or Herzegovina, the Italian Government would not be a consenting party to such an arrangement, although, perhaps, any counter-claim which they might be disposed to put forward might be deferred to a future period.

His Excellency went on to say that Italy had no ambitious views whatever. She had accepted the frontiers established at the peace with Austria without any afterthought, and

his belief was that it was far better both for Austria and Italy that their boundaries should continue to remain as they are at present.

M. Depretis then mentioned that Count Robilant was to have an interview to-day with Count Andrassy; and though his Excellency professed not to know its precise object, he alluded to it in a way to give me the impression that he believed it to relate to a matter of no ordinary importance.

When next I see M. Depretis I shall, of course, endeavour to ascertain some particulars respecting it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 113.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 79.)
Rome, January 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAD a short interview this morning with M. Depretis, who is still confined to his room.

His Excellency informed me that he had received no information of the armistice or the preliminaries of peace having been signed, but he had news, nevertheless, of the continued advance of the Russian army, and his Excellency did not contest that the obvious construction to be put upon this is that the Russians intend to push on to Constantinople.

I acquainted M. Depretis with the substance of the telegram read to your Lordship by Count Schouvaloff, in which Prince Gortchakow authorizes him to affirm categorically that Russia considers the passage of ships of war through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles as a European question, which she does not intend to "récoudre isolément," and his Excellency expressed his satisfaction at receiving this assurance.

A few words then passed as to the conditions of peace, as far as they are yet known. M. Depretis deprecated the extension given to Bulgaria, but he seemed to think the Powers would have very little chance of obtaining its curtailment hereafter. His Excellency agreed that it would be very desirable for the neutral Powers to concert together before the meeting of the Conference or Congress, if either is to take place, the points on which they should unite in urging together. He repeated that the navigation of the Straits appeared to him the most important for Italy.

I said I believed I was correct in supposing his Excellency was in favour of maintaining the *statu quo* on this question, to which M. Depretis replied that it certainly appeared to him as the one which offered the most advantages to the naval Powers of the Mediterranean.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 114.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 90.)
Paris, February 2, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON spoke to me this afternoon of the probability that it might be proposed that a Congress of the Great Powers should be assembled to settle definitively the arrangements to be made in the East in consequence of the war between Russia and Turkey.

He said that France would not entertain seriously a proposal for such a Congress unless it emanated from two at least of the three Powers directly interested, and from two acting jointly and in concert the one with the other. By the three Powers directly interested he meant England, Austria, and Russia.

Perceiving that M. Waddington was saying this with reference to the declaration of Her Majesty's Government respecting the invalidity of arrangements made without the participation of the Powers parties to the Treaties of Paris and London, I reminded him that no mention of a Congress or Conference was made in that declaration; and I suggested that, as I had communicated the declaration to him in writing, it would be well that he should make a written answer to it.

He promised to take this into consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 115.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 91. Very Confidential.)
Paris, February 2, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch No. 90 of to-day, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Waddington told me confidentially this afternoon that the French Government could not look with any satisfaction to the assembling of a European Conference or Congress on the Eastern question at this moment.

In the first place, the result would, he said, in all probability be the reversal of the most important stipulations of the Congress of Paris, and this would be far from agreeable to France. In the next place, the French would feel great pain in seeing the difference between the comparatively humble position France would now hold and the high rank which she took in 1856. Lastly, M. Waddington seemed to feel that it would be very difficult for France to come out of such an assemblage on as good terms with all the Powers as she went in.

He proceeded, however, to say that the march of events appeared to be tending towards a Congress, and that of course if the other Powers agreed to hold one, France would not stand aloof. She would endeavour to promote concord and the general interest, and perhaps her entire disinterestedness and impartiality would give weight to her opinion.

Speaking of the views of the other Powers on the subject, he said that Germany appeared to be entirely opposed to one. Prince Bismarck himself was understood to have a personal dislike to Conferences, to think that it was not in such assemblies that he appeared to the best advantage, and to be determined, at all events, not to appear in person in them. It was also supposed that his Highness was afraid that the hollowness of the alliance between the three Emperors would become apparent in any assemblage of the kind.

On the other hand, M. Waddington heard that Prince Gortchakow very much liked the idea of a Congress, and was very desirous of presiding in one himself. He might, in fact, look forward with satisfaction to crowning his long career by recording the assent of Europe to conditions surrounding to the advantage and renown of his country.

Austria had, M. Waddington thought, become more favourable to a Congress, and Italy would no doubt rejoice to have a fresh opportunity of conspicuously taking her place among the Great Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 116.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

My Lord,

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 3 Février, 1878.

JE m'empresse de communiquer à votre Excellence la copie ci-jointe d'une dépêche télégraphique que je reçois à l'instant de mon Gouvernement, et qui annonce la signature des bases de la paix et de l'armistice.

Votre, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 116.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 3 Février, 1878.

LES Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont signé le 31 Janvier avec le Grand Duc Nicolas le Protocole des bases de la paix et de l'armistice. Son Altesse Impériale a promis à nos Plénipotentiaires de transmettre immédiatement aux Commandants de corps Russes l'ordre de suspendre les hostilités. Nous venons, par conséquent, de donner de notre côté des ordres dans le même sens à nos Commandants de corps en Europe et en Asie.

No. 117.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February* 1, 1878.

I HAVE obtained most secretly the textual copy of the bases of peace. They are:—

"First. Bulgaria within the limits determined by the majority of the Bulgarian population, and which under no circumstances are to be less than those indicated by the Conference, shall be created into an autonomous tributary Principality, with national and Christian Government and native militia; the Ottoman army shall not remain in the Principality.

"Secondly. The independence of Montenegro shall be recognized. An increase of territory equivalent to that which the fortune of war has placed in her hands shall be assured to her, and her definite frontier shall be traced hereafter.

"Thirdly. The independence of Roumania and Servia shall be recognized. A sufficient territorial compensation shall be assured to the former and a rectification of frontiers to the latter.

"Fourthly. Bosnia and Herzegovina shall have an administrative autonomy, with sufficient guarantees. Similar reforms shall be introduced into the other Christian provinces of Turkey in Europe.

"Fifthly. Porte engages to indemnify Russia for expenses of the war and for the losses which she has imposed upon herself. The nature of that indemnity, whether pecuniary, administrative, or other, is to be settled hereafter.

"Sixthly. The Sultan will come to an understanding with the Emperor for the protection of the rights and interests of Russia in the Straits of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles."

When acceptation of these preliminary conditions shall be officially notified to the Commander-in-chief, Conventions of Armistice should be negotiated at the two seats of war, and hostilities might be suspended provisionally. As a material guarantee of the acceptation by the Porte of the conditions of the armistice, and of her entering into negotiations for peace, orders shall be given to the Ottoman troops to evacuate, as soon as the armistice is signed, the fortresses of Widdin, Rustchuk, and Silistria in Europe, and Erzeroum in Asia. Moreover, Russian troops will have the right to occupy militarily during the continuation of the *pourparlers* certain strategical points which shall be specified upon conclusion of armistice at the two seats of war. Do not let it be known for the present that I possess the text.

No. 118.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 149.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February* 2, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Consul at Salonica:—

"Some villages, district of Volo, joined volunteers; formed Provisional Government at Milliess, on Mount Pelion. Strong body of Greeks crossed the frontier near Demoko and Armyro."

No. 119.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 150.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February* 2, 1878.

MILITARY ATTACHÉ at Gallipoli telegraphs to-day:—

"Russians arrived by railway last night, and occupied Dédéagatch, capturing and removing sixty waggons. Found no ships, but only boats and barges.

"Two thousand Russians have occupied Rodosto."

No. 120.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 151.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February* 3, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram, Secret, of February 1, 7 P.M., would your Lordship inform me what are the seven points by which Austria stands?

No. 121.

Mr. Richetts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, February* 3, 1878.

FIFTEEN THOUSAND marched on Van. This army repulsed with loss of 1,800 men near Yekisdere. Fever raging in all camps.

No. 122.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 3.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Rome, February* 3, 1878.

I HAVE read to M. Depretis your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, stating that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to act with Austria and Italy; that they believe in the sincerity of Austria; and inquiring if the Italian Government would be prepared, under the circumstances mentioned, to send their fleet with ours to Constantinople. The signature of the armistice, his Excellency says, suspends, of course, the necessity of a decision being taken on the latter point.

M. Depretis authorizes me to state that he will accept a proposal for Conference at Vienna, and he wishes to have full understanding with Her Majesty's Government previously to it. He mentioned three points which occur to him at this moment as the most essential for establishing agreement.

First, and most important, the question of the Straits; on which he will agree to any arrangement thought acceptable by Her Majesty's Government.

Second, that none of the Great Powers should obtain an increase of territory in consequence of the changes in European Turkey.

Third, that the conditions of peace shall be such as to afford a prospect of durability.

By this may be understood he would regard a realization of the territorial arrangements, as set forth in the bases of peace, as far as they are known, as practically putting an end to Turkey as a power in Europe; and in this case he would wish to come to an agreement as to how it is to be replaced by some element other than Slavonian or Russian. His Excellency has evidently a leaning towards the Greeks.

Yesterday the Greek Chargé d'Affaires communicated the despatch from his Government announcing that they had sent troops into Thessaly and Epirus, for the purpose of protecting their countrymen and co-religionists.

M. Depretis told me he had made no reply whatever.

No. 123.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, February* 3, 1878, 3·40 P.M.

REPEAT names of European fortresses mentioned in your telegram No. 146 as to be evacuated by Turkish troops.

No. 124.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, February 3, 1878, 6·30 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs spoke to me this afternoon with much anxiety as to the position of Greece with regard to Turkey. He asked me what I could suggest, and I asked him whether a joint suggestion on the part of the protecting Powers to Greece, without having the character of interfering with her liberty of action, to recall her troops would be of any assistance. He said he thought that it might, if accompanied by assurance of the Powers that life and property in neighbouring provinces would be secured. I told him that I thought orders should be given at once to the Greek General to avoid all collision with Turkish troops, and he said he would suggest this to the Minister of War, and, further, that the General should be instructed to do nothing which could change the character of the motive which has prompted the Greek Government to send troops into Turkey.

It is much to be hoped that Turkish troops may not come into collision with the Greeks.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 125.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 116.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a report from Mr. Dragoman Marinitsch, founded upon information obtained from a high official authority, as to the state of Constantinople and the apprehended disturbances amongst the population. I am further informed that during the last few days papers denouncing the Sultan and some of his Ministers have been affixed to the walls of the city and have been distributed in the streets. Mr. Sandison was instructed by me to speak on the subject very seriously to the Grand Vizier, and, if unable to see his Highness, to Safvet Pasha. I have the honour to inclose copy of his report to me of his conversation with the latter Minister, by which your Lordship will find that his Excellency promises to urge upon his colleagues the importance of taking the precautions I suggested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 125.

Mr. Marinitsch to Mr. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 23 Janvier, 1878.*

AU milieu des bruits les plus sinistres, dont le public se fait journellement l'écho, celui qui semble avoir gagné le plus de consistance est que les Musulmans trament une conspiration contre le Sultan et ses Ministres.

Comme je considère la chose possible, eu égard à l'animosité qui règne parmi le peuple contre certains Ministres, je me suis cru en devoir d'en informer votre Excellence.

D'autre part, l'affluence sans cesse croissante des réfugiés Musulmans, qui sont tous armés et parmi lesquels on compte une foule d'individus coupables des méfaits en Bulgarie, a causé une grande panique au sein des habitants Chrétiens de la capitale et de ses faubourgs. Ces derniers se demandent, et avec raison, pourquoi ces individus ne provoqueraient-ils pas quelques désordres ici pour profiter de l'occasion et piller, brûler, et massacrer les Chrétiens?

Cette appréhension ne serait pas sans fondement, puisque nous avons sous les yeux l'exemple des méfaits qui viennent de se produire à Bourgas, Ismeil, Rodosto, et d'autres localités, où les autorités ont été impuissantes à empêcher le mal par manque de prévoyance ou de négligence. Du reste, il est évident que l'approche de l'ennemi ne fait qu'augmenter la panique qui pourrait amener de très grands malheurs si le Gouvernement ne prend pas immédiatement les mesures énergiques dictées par les circonstances graves que nous traversons.

En présence de cet état de choses, votre Excellence, mieux que toute autre, pourrait arriver à sauvegarder la vie et les biens des sujets étrangers, qui se trouvent gravement menacés à tout moment.

Connaissant le vif intérêt que votre Excellence porte au pays, les conseils ne manqueraient pas d'être pris en sérieuse considération par le Ministère Impérial. Votre Excellence rendrait en même temps un très-grand service à l'Empire, en mettant le Gouvernement en mesure de prévenir des massacres et pillages dans la capitale et que l'ennemi pourrait peut-être prétexter pour augmenter ses convoitises.

En conséquence, je prends la respectueuse liberté de suggérer à votre Excellence de vouloir bien mettre le Gouvernement en demeure de faire désarmer tous les réfugiés; de faire donner à la Garde Civique et à la police des ordres très-sévères pour le maintien de l'ordre et de la sécurité publique; de faire augmenter le nombre des troupes régulières en garnison; et de signifier en même temps au Gouvernement qu'en présence des circonstances critiques, les Représentants étrangers allaient s'occuper à organiser un service de sûreté pour mettre à couvert la vie et les biens de leurs sujets. Aussitôt que le Gouvernement verra que les Missions s'occupent de prendre des mesures, il comprendra la gravité de la situation et n'hésitera pas à adopter les dispositions qui seraient de nature à lui épargner des malheurs incalculables.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) HUGO MARINITSCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 125.

Mr. Sandison to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, January 24, 1878.*

HAVING failed to obtain an interview of the Grand Vizier, in order to submit to him, as directed by your Excellency, the suggestions contained in Mr. Marinitsch's report in connection with the maintenance of the public tranquillity at Constantinople, I brought the subject under Safvet Pasha's notice, who fully acknowledges the necessity of immediate measures in presence of the circumstances which I described to him.

I duly reminded his Excellency at the same time of the parting injunctions of General Ignatiew to the Turkish Plenipotentiaries of the Constantinople Conference, which, though they may have sounded like rhodomontade in those days, were likely, I said, to become a sad reality at the present time, and thus give Russia the opportunity of avenging international European wrongs in the event of any disorders being brought about either by the Circassians or by any portion of the armed Mussulman population which now thronges the capital.

Safvet Pasha said he would lose no time in urging upon the Grand Vizier and the rest of his colleagues the adoption of the measures which I had just submitted to him, the most essential one being the disarming of the Circassian irregulars just as they come into Constantinople, and the employment of the civic guard, whose ranks ought also to include, though in a small proportion, respectable characters chosen from the Christian communities.

Safvet Pasha approved likewise of the suggestion that the Porte should not omit to give injunctions, through the Sheikh-ul-Islam, to the Ulema corps of Constantinople, directing them to inculcate peace and tranquillity upon the excited portion of the population.

I spoke in the same terms to Rhouf Pasha, the Minister of War, who entirely concurred in the views expressed by Safvet Pasha in regard to this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 126.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 118.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of three despatches from Mr. Longworth on the subject of the state of affairs in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 126.

Mr. Longworth to Mr. Layard.

Volo, January 11, 1878.

Sir,

AS a safeguard against false rumours, I beg to acquaint your Excellency of my proceeding with regard to two Petitions given to me by the inhabitants of Kokinoplos, a Christian village of Mount Olympus, copies of which are herein inclosed.

One of them is a complaint respecting a certain forest confiscated from them for now more than nine years, though purchased legally from the Crown. This unlawful seizure has occasioned great want and suffering, and has been the means of involving the people in debt for 2,000*l*.

On my mentioning the matter to Ibraim Pasha, the new Mutessarif of Tricala at Larissa, the claim to the forest was investigated, and being found indisputable, orders were issued for its immediate restoration to the villagers.

The other Petition is in behalf of six Christians of Kokinoplos imprisoned at Ellasona, as being accomplices in the murder of two Mahometan brothers of a neighbouring village called "Barakli." On making known the matter to Ahmet Pasha, the new Military Governor at Larissa, the prisoners were examined, found innocent, and immediately released.

The object of this letter is to acquaint your Excellency that in the above cases my interference was given in a strictly private and unofficial manner, and that it is thoroughly understood as such by both the Civil and Military Governors of this Province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 126.

Mr. Longworth to Mr. Layard.

Volo, January 12, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that there is a force concentrated at Xiorchori, in the Island of Egripos, awaiting a signal to cross over into Turkey.

This force is believed to consist of about 3,000 Greeks and Rayahs, well armed and well equipped at the expense of the Committees in Athens.

Should they cross the Channel of Trikhiori into the Peninsula of Zagora, there is little there to oppose their revolutionary movements, as the nearest Turkish force is only a small battalion of infantry, an ironclad, and a gunboat stationed here at Volo.

I have ascertained that the inhabitants of the twenty-five villages of Zagora are not disaffected against the Porte; and yet it is probable that many will join the ranks of the insurgents, actuated as they will be by fear, force, or love of independence.

If one may judge from the alarming rumours in circulation of the threatening attitude of these armed bands, affairs in these parts are coming to a speedy crisis, particularly so in the Kaimakamlik of Volo. I think it therefore advisable to remain here a few days longer, in the hope of proving the veracity of these reports, and communicating to your Excellency further on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 126.

Mr. Longworth to Mr. Layard.

Volo, January 18, 1878.

Sir,

WITH regard to the disturbed state of this district, I beg to draw your Excellency's attention to my despatch of the 12th instant, and my telegram of the 15th, worded as follows:—

"Armed Greeks crossing from Egripos into Zagora; 400 occupy village Bromin. Greek force in Egripos about 4,000. Turkish force at Volo, 600; Larissa, 3,000. Turkish man-of-war leaves for eastern shores of Zagora."

I now beg to acquaint your Excellency that the number of the insurgents are now estimated at about 150 men, armed with revolvers and breech-loading rifles.

They are not accused of any irregularities, and pay for everything they take. They carry a banner with the word "Macedonie" as a device, and are led by a certain Zalmo-

ponlu, a French translation of whose Manifesto to the Kaimakam of Volo is herein inclosed.

To-day three companies of the battalion of Arab troops stationed at Volo have been sent to disperse the insurgents, and also the gunboat "Rethymo" and a revenue cutter are to be engaged to this service.

Great fear prevails among the people here, and many of the principal families are leaving Volo for Athens.

I shall myself start to-morrow on my journey along the Greek frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY LONGWORTH.

P.S.—I inclose a copy of a letter just received from Dr. Eccles, of the Stafford House Committee. The interesting information he furnishes is enhanced in value, as I believe him to be a careful observer, and his intimacy with the people and languages of this Province give him unusual facilities for gathering facts.

H. L.

Inclosure 4 in No. 126.

Manifesto addressed by Chief of Insurgents at Zagora to the Kaimakam of Volo.

Honorable Gouverneur, *Bromisi, le* $\frac{3}{15}$ *Janvier*, 1878.

PAR les porteurs de la présente, vous pouvez vous informer de nous, et le but que nous nous proposons, vous pouvez le comprendre de notre conduite envers vos hommes, de même que nous, par une longue et cruelle expérience, nous vous avons connu les Turcs.

Le but que nous nous proposons, M. le Gouverneur, est de reparer l'injustice faite par le mauvais esprit de l'humanité, et surtout de l'Orient, lorsque les limites du Royaume de la Grèce ont été tracés, injustice de laquelle tant de révolutions, y comprise la présente, sont provenues, parceque une nation d'un passé aussi glorieux que la nation Grecque, et pouvant se sentir que même par sa décadence a servi l'humanité, ne pouvait pas infiniment souffrir le déshonneur et les oppressions barbares du Gouvernement du Sultan, agissant par ses Circassiens et Bashi-Bouzouks.

D'un autre côté votre nation est destinée à se décomposer et disparaître, étant clair qu'il ne pourra plus gouverner avec ses manières violentes et inhumaines des peuples civilisés digne d'une meilleure sorte, parce que ces peuples naturellement se révolteraient contre un Gouvernement comme celui du Sultan, fondé sur la violence et la fraude. Il n'est plus temps à présent pour des pilules tels que le Hatti-Humayoun, les réformes en apparence, ou une Constitution vraiment originale . . . . ces choses-là ne passent plus, et vous devez désormais reconnaitre votre incapacité de gouverner et dominer l'Orient. Il est officiellement prouvé que vous n'étiez pas digne de votre fortune, en persistant sur la législation du Coran et du Hatti-Séríf, tandis que aujourd'hui l'homme vraiment civilisé ne peut pas accepter comme suffisant le produit le plus parfait de l'intelligence humaine, la source de l'amour et d'abnégation, l'Evangile. Çà c'était bien pour d'autres époques, aujourd'hui l'homme a d'autres besoins.

Nous vous informons enfin, M. le Gouverneur, que dans la lutte qu'il y aura entre nous, nous tiendrons religieusement les préceptes de l'humanité et d'indulgence envers nos frères, soit Turcs ou Chrétiens, sans distinction de race ou religion, et auraient toujours pour base de nos opérations l'indépendance personnelle, nous vous invitons donc d'en faire autant en laissant à part vos habitudes du passé.

Agréez, M. le Gouverneur, d'accepter personnellement l'expression de notre estime et considération comme habitants d'Orient, et par conséquent notre frère.

Le Chef,

(Signé) A. ZAKAROPOULO.

Le Secrétaire,

D. STRATIGOPULOS.

Inclosure 5 in No. 126.

Dr. Eccles to Mr. Longworth.

Millies, January 17, 1878.

My dear Longworth,

ALTHOUGH I hope to return to-morrow, I send this that you may have news in time for the post.

We landed at Abyssos, and, hearing that the insurgents were at Neochora, went there, but found that the inhabitants had refused the application of the invaders to lodge in the place. A guard of some fifty villagers, armed with flint muskets and fowling-pieces, had been formed to prevent their entry; but the invaders were conducted to the monastery of the Holy Virgin (Narayia), and supplied with food, for which they paid more than demanded. During the night signalling was carried on, by means of a system of bonfires, between the party at Panagia and a force which, I believe, number over 5,000, stationed at Neamagella, on the opposite Hellenic coast. The invaders lighted first one fire, which was answered, then three altogether, after which the middle one was extinguished, and I saw no more signalling that night.

Having ascertained that the insurgents would proceed towards Millies the following day, I returned to my boat and made for Kallar Vera, whence I climbed the mountain to the place. Here we found the people in a state of great agitation at the arrival of two deputies from the band to tell the Miliots that they intended visiting them that evening. The Codja-Bashis assembled the Medjliss, and while the Headmen consulted, I interviewed the emissaries in a shop hard by.

One was clothed in European costume and carried a breech-loading musket and a revolver stuck in his belt, while the other wore the "fustanella," armed with a rifle of the same pattern as his comrades, a dagger and two revolvers being visible between the folds of his sash.

They received for answer that they could not be entertained, and that the Muchtars of Millies hoped they would not be obliged to use force of arms in maintaining their resolution. A letter was subsequently sent to the Chiefs, but the messenger on reaching the monastery found the insurgents had gone, no one knew where.

I have conversed with three Bromiriots, who told me that they woke up on Monday morning to find their village occupied by over 100 strangers, who appeared to be led by three Chiefs, were armed with breech-loading rifles, dressed for the most part in European fashion, and had with them two banners, which were not unfurled.

One recognized as old acquaintances some of the band, rayahs who had worked with him at the Suez Canal.

They demanded meat, wine, tobacco, and coffee, for which they paid handsomely in Turkish money, and left on Monday for the hamlet of Sleyea, where they remained till Tuesday, when they proceeded to Neochora, a village of 250 houses, but were there refused admission, and directed to the neighbouring monastery.

In no cases hitherto have they recruited their forces, nor have they extra arms with them, as far as I can learn. The villagers with whom I have spoken deplore their arrival, and look on the invasion as a source of annoyance, though they all testify to the good behaviour and generosity of this band.

Their greatest fear is lest the Bashi-Bazouks should be quartered on them, and they declare that if they are subjected to the violence and insults of the irregulars they will rise to a man, and defend their wives and children, though they should lose their all in the attempt.

In no case have I seen any ill-feeling for the Porte, and I do not believe the people are at all disposed to risk a repetition of their misfortunes in 1854, although they would have little to lose, as the failure of the olive and fruit crops (their means of living), the high price of provisions, and doubled taxation, has reduced many to abject poverty. I was introduced to men who had sold their bedding and cooking utensils to avoid mortgaging their patches of olives, in order to pay their double taxes; while I was told that some of the land had already passed into the hands of the usurers.

Certain malcontents—about 300—have assembled at Drakia, a village of 700 houses, almost inaccessible, about four hours from Volo. They have invited any or all the villagers of the peninsula to join them, and have signified their intention to unite with the invaders in forcing themselves from the Turkish yoke.

No more news at present, so I will close this.

(Signed) A. SYMONS ECCLES.

No. 127.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 12. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, January* 23, 1878.

A FEW days since I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship that a pressure is being exercised upon this Government by Russia, to extort the voluntary cession of the part of Bessarabia ceded to Moldavia by the Treaty of Paris.

That the pressure exists there is little doubt, but it would appear that the Roumanian Government makes pretence of ignoring the hints, in the hope that efforts may be made in their behalf from without.

The question is a grave one, both for this country as well as for the party now in power, and M. Cogalniccano assures me that neither he nor M. Bratiano will be a party to the transaction; but may it not happen that the Roumanian Government will not be consulted in the matter, and that the Porte will simply part with its sovereign rights over the strip of territory in question.

This country may be now said to labour under a general "scare" respecting Russian pretensions.

Within the last few weeks a remarkable rise in the Roumanian railway shares has taken place at Berlin, and it is alleged that the rise in question has resulted from large purchases in behalf of various railway companies in the south of Russia subsidized for that purpose by the Imperial Government; that by thus obtaining a preponderance of votes, the railway will be administered in Russian interests; that there is no commerce between this country and Russia, and, consequently, that the object of the transaction cannot be but in a political direction.

The story appears to me to be based upon slender foundations. It is seen that Russia will not hesitate, if convenient, to enter this country, and virtually take into her hands railways, telegraphs, and anything which may be convenient; why, therefore, incur the expense of the alleged arrangement? Moreover, it must be borne in mind that, even were the above a reality, the transaction would be a perfectly legitimate one, and bear somewhat of an analogy to our own acquisition of a moiety of the shares in the Suez Canal.

I have thought it right to bring the above to your Lordship's notice as a subject which is much discussed in this country, and it is as well that your Lordship should be in possession of the circumstances of the rumour.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 128.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 85.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, January* 24, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to state that, having been confined to the house by indisposition, I have not seen Prince Gortchakow since I made the written communication to him in regard to the opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to the validity of a Treaty of Peace concluded directly between Russia and Turkey, copy of which communication was inclosed to your Lordship in my despatch No. 61 of the 16th instant.

It did not appear to me that an answer was required, and that if it had been thought necessary to do so, Prince Gortchakow would have conveyed it to your Lordship through Count Schouvaloff.

I presume, however, that Prince Gortchakow regarded the communication as a statement to record the opinion of Her Majesty's Government which required no answer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 129.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 87.)
St. Petersburgh, January 24, 1878.

My Lord,

IT is reported by the Russian press of this morning (apparently on a telegram from Constantinople) that Suleiman Pasha had arrived with the remains of his army at Kavala, on the Egean Sea, where he intended to embark for Constantinople, and a hint is given that a portion of these forces may be landed at Gallipoli.

This report, whether founded or not, may furnish an excuse to the Imperial Commander-in-chief to move in that direction, and it is even already reported that a Russian corps is advancing on Gallipoli.

The procrastination evinced by the Grand Duke Nicholas in opening negotiations for an armistice, encourage the opinion here that it is the intention of his Imperial Highness to profit by any possible excuse for delay in order to push on to Constantinople; and to judge by the tone of the Russian press, it will be only at Constantinople that a Treaty will be signed.

The "Agence Russe" (a paper published under the direction of the Imperial Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and for which the leading articles are written by Baron Jomini) published yesterday a violent article against the pretensions of England in regard to the direct negotiations between Russia and Turkey, the text of which I inclosed to your Lordship by this day's post in my despatch No. 79.

I hear from various quarters that the tone of public opinion is very hostile to England, representing England as powerless and isolated, whilst the desire for her humiliation is openly expressed, under a conviction that it is too late for her to take any decisive action.

The secrecy observed in regard to the Russian conditions of peace gives rise to a suspicion that it is the intention of Russia, in view of the collapse of Turkey, to impose on her terms, and to enforce their acceptance, which might be opposed by Europe.

In view of the reported advance of Russian troops towards Gallipoli, I have thought it my duty to apprize Her Majesty's Government of the danger of a sudden occupation by Russia of the Dardanelles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 130.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 89.)
St. Petersburgh, January 24, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that General Ignatiew, who has been under orders for some days to join the Grand Duke Nicholas, left this morning for his Imperial Highness' head-quarters.

The departure of General Ignatiew would seem to portend serious negotiations for peace with the Turkish Plenipotentiaries, as well as the acceptance by the latter of the conditions demanded by Russia for the conclusion of an armistice.

I may observe to your Lordship that in an official telegram published this morning, and dated Kyzanlik, Tuesday, January 22, the Grand Duke Nicholas states that he expected to be at Adrianople on the 27th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 131.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 103.)
St. Petersburgh, January 27, 1878.

My Lord,

VARIOUS reports have reached me which seem to confirm the intention of the Imperial Commander-in-chief to detach a corps from Adrianople as rapidly as possible for the purpose of occupying Gallipoli, if, indeed, as reported by the press, a corps is not already on its way to fulfil that object.

But whether the report of an occupation of Demotika is founded or not it is evident that it can only consist of a cavalry corps, as it is scarcely possible that infantry and artillery could have had time to reach that position. When, however, the corps of cavalry, at present reported to be sent on in advance, shall be reinforced by infantry and artillery, and shall have taken position even at a short distance from Gallipoli, it may be considered that the possession of that town, including that of the Dardanelles, is virtually in the hands of Russia, as it would be too late for England to take any protective action in regard to those positions.

It is, moreover, evident that if the Dardanelles should once fall into the hands of Russia, our communication with Constantinople will be entirely at their mercy, and Her Majesty's fleet might thus be prevented from giving protection to British subjects there if required.

I would further observe to your Lordship that if a Russian occupation of the Dardanelles should take place—which, to judge by the tone of the press and of the language held here appears to be imminent—the whole Turkish fleet must eventually fall into the hands of Russia.

Under the foregoing circumstances I have felt it to be my duty to submit to Her Majesty's Government the importance of occupying the Dardanelles as a precautionary and defensive measure before that the advance of Russian troops in force may render it too late for such a protective measure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 132.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 107. Confidential.)
St. Petersburgh, January 28, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM informed from a reliable source that a verbal communication was made to Prince Gortchakow by the Austrian Ambassador at this Court (about the same time as I made one of a similar purport) conveying to his Highness the opinion of his Government that any Treaty between Russia and Turkey affecting the Treaties of 1856 and 1871 would require the assent of the signatory Powers.

I am given to understand that although this communication was conveyed in the mildest terms, it produced a momentary unfavourable impression on Prince Gortchakow, who replied verbally to the Austrian Ambassador that the answer would be conveyed in the form of an autograph letter from the Emperor Alexander to the Emperor Franz Josef, of which M. de Novikow, who was starting on the following day for Vienna, would be the bearer.

Since the receipt of this letter, I am told that all distrust between the two Governments has been removed, and that the most perfect understanding exists between them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 133.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 116.)
St. Petersburgh, January 30, 1878.

My Lord,

AT an interview I had with Prince Gortchakow this morning I referred to the mysterious silence preserved by the Turkish Plenipotentiaries, as mentioned in Mr. Layard's telegram No. 132 of the 29th instant, from whom no communication had been received by the Porte since the 23rd instant.

Prince Gortchakow could give no explanation of this circumstance, but stated that no intelligence had reached the Emperor of Russia or the Imperial Government from the head-quarters since the 26th instant. It was possible, his Highness observed, that it may be owing to the movements of the Grand Duke Nicholas, who was expected to arrive at Adrianople on the 26th instant at the earliest.

His Highness also expressed an opinion that the absence of information from the Grand Duke may be owing to certain portions of the telegraph line being defective between

Adrianople and Kyzanlik, but he could give no explanations of the cause which prevented the Turkish Plenipotentiaries from communicating with Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 134.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 118.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, January 30, 1878.*

I INQUIRED from Prince Gortchakow, in the course of conversation this morning, what was the meaning of the last Article of the Peace Conditions communicated privately to your Lordship by Count Schouvaloff, which referred to "an ulterior understanding for safeguarding the rights and interests of Russia in the Straits."

His Highness said the whole Article was vague and unnecessary. He would have no objection to suppress it altogether. He denied also that it referred to an understanding between Russia and Turkey alone, and authorized me to inform your Lordship most categorically that Russia considered the question of the Straits as an European question, which could only be settled in concert with the European Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 135.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 120.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, January 30, 1878.*

I COMMUNICATED to Prince Gortchakow this morning the substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, stating that Her Majesty's Government, while recognizing any arrangements made by the Russian and Turkish delegates at Kyzanlik for the conclusion of an armistice and settlement of the bases of peace as binding between the two belligerents, declare that, so far as those arrangements are calculated to modify European Treaties and to affect general and British interests, they are unable to recognize in them any validity unless they are made the subject of a formal agreement among the Powers parties to the Treaty of Paris.

Prince Gortchakow replied that in order to bring about an armistice it was necessary to agree on the bases of peace, but they were only to be considered as preliminaries and not definitive as regarded Europe.

His Highness stated very categorically that questions bearing on European interests will be concerted with the European Powers, and he said that he had given a clear and positive assurance to this effect to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 136.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 124. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, January 30, 1878.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW informed me to-day that no intelligence had been received from the Grand Duke Nicholas since the 26th instant, and he was in ignorance therefore of what was doing or had been done in regard to the armistice and conditions of peace.

In the course of a desultory conversation allusion was made to the disquietude prevailing in England, and I observed that it had been produced in great measure by the mysterious silence preserved in regard to the conditions of peace. His Highness stated that there was no necessity to communicate them to foreign Governments before their acceptance by the Porte, and hinted that inconvenience might have been caused had the Imperial Government done so. "At all events," added his Highness, "we were the judges whether to do so or not."

To this I replied that the Imperial Government were undoubtedly the judges to act as they deemed best, but they were equally liable to the results of the course they pursued, which, as his Highness might have seen, had not been favourable.

Prince Gortchakow referred to British interests, and said if he only knew what British interests were he would take care that they should be safeguarded.

He had at once relieved anxiety about Gallipoli by giving the assurance that it should not be occupied unless Turkish regular forces should concentrate there.

I here observed to his Highness that the assurance he had given did not simply refer to the occupation of Gallipoli, but that the Imperial Government had stated that they had no intention of "directing their military operations towards that place." Notwithstanding, and immediately on his arrival at Adrianople, General Skobeleff had dispatched a corps of cavalry in that direction, which had arrived at Demotika.

Prince Gortchakow replied that this measure had been taken in consequence of a report that Turkish troops were intended to be land at Gallipoli, but that an express order had been given that Gallipoli should not be occupied, and that there should be merely a corps of observation to watch the enemy.

In regard to the entry of Her Majesty's fleet into the Dardanelles, Prince Gortchakow said that it had called forth a protest on the part of the Porte.

I replied to his Highness that, on the contrary, Sir Stafford Northcote had mentioned in his speech that a Firman had been issued by the Sultan granting that permission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 137.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 57.)
My Lord, *Berlin, January 27, 1878.*

THE time wasted at Kyzanlik by the negotiators has produced an impression here that the Turks are intentionally procrastinating, with a lingering hope of intervention on the part of Her Majesty's Government, whilst the Russians are equally seeking to gain time, with a view to extend their occupation of Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 138.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 59.)
My Lord, *Berlin, January 28, 1878.*

A REPORT has reached Berlin that the Russians are availing themselves of the procrastination of the Turkish Government to push on their forces as far as Chatadgé, near Constantinople, before the armistice and peace preliminaries are signed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 139.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 66.)
My Lord, *Berlin, January 30, 1878.*

IN obedience to your Lordship's telegraphic instructions of yesterday's date, I addressed the note, of which copy is herewith inclosed, to the German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 139.

Lord Odo Russell to M. de Bülow.

Berlin, January 30, 1878.

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, has been instructed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to inform his Excellency Herr von Bülow, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that Her Majesty's Government, whilst recognizing any arrangements made by the Russian and Turkish Delegates at Kyzanlik, for the conclusion of an armistice and settlement of bases for peace, as binding between the two belligerents, declare that, in so far as those arrangements are calculated to modify European Treaties and to affect general and British interests, they are unable to recognize in them any validity unless they are made the subject of a formal agreement among the parties to the Treaty of Paris.

Her Majesty's Government hope that this view of the case, which is entirely based upon Treaties, and especially upon the Treaty of London of 1871, will receive the assent of the other Powers.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 140.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 68. Confidential.)

Berlin, January 31, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 66 of yesterday's date, inclosing copy of a note to the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, relative to the non-recognition of any conditions agreed upon between Russia and Turkey, calculated to affect existing European Treaties without the assent of the European Powers, I learn that the Italian Government have confidentially sounded the German Government as to the answer they propose to return to Her Majesty's Government on the subject of that communication.

In reply, the German Minister for Foreign Affairs told the Italian Ambassador that he had submitted the note I had been instructed to address to him by your Lordship to the Emperor and to Prince Bismarck, and that he must await His Majesty's pleasure and the Chancellor's instructions before he could give any positive answer on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 141.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 69. Confidential.)

Berlin, January 31, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 42 of the 20th instant, respecting the wish of Prince Gortchakow for a European Conference, which Prince Bismarck had agreed to, and Count Andrassy was to promote later on, I am now confidentially informed that they have also agreed to suggest that it should be held at Vienna.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 142.

Mr. Scott to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 5. Confidential.)

Darmstadt, January 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE reason to know that Prince Alexander of Hesse, who is at present on his way home from St. Petersburgh, telegraphed this morning from the Russian frontier to his

family here, that he had just received a telegram from the Emperor Alexander, informing him that His Majesty had received a telegram from the Sultan of Turkey accepting the preliminaries of peace.

I ventured, even at the risk of repeating intelligence already known to your Lordship from other quarters, to telegraph this fact to the Foreign Office this evening.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

No. 143.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 9. Political.)

Galatz, January 28, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 8, Political, of the 23rd instant, on the subject of the movements of troops, I have the honour to report that about 800 Russian troops arrived at Galatz on the evening of the 26th instant by railway from Bender; about half of these men belong apparently to a corps of artificers, and are, it is said, to be employed on the line of rail.

Russian troops continue to pass by the line between Roman and Bucharest; and rumours are now current, both at Galatz and Ibraila, that a very large Russian force will arrive in Roumania shortly.

In addition to the troops which crossed the Danube at Ibraila, as reported in my despatch No. 3, Political, of the 11th instant, about 1,000 men crossed the ice later to join General Zimmerman's corps; so that there are now at Ibraila only a few hundred men. Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Morphy reports that Roumanian reserves are being sent forward by rail from Ibraila.

There has been rain here on the night of the 26th and during the 27th. The Danube remains frozen, but it is no longer considered safe, even for foot passengers, to venture on the ice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 144.

Vice-Consul Bonham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 4. Political.)

Jassy, January 29, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the transport, to the south, of ammunition, shell, and other military stores, for the Russian army, continues uninterruptedly. Cylindrical iron pontoons and materials for the bridge over the Danube also continue to pass, a long train arriving to-day.

Reinforcements are also still going forward, amongst them a number of sailors.

The weather is unusually mild, a thaw having commenced on the 22nd, which still continues, with alternate rain and snow.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. W. BONHAM.

No. 145.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 6. Political.)

Corfu, January 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copies of two reports on political matters, received from the Vice-Consul at Santa Maura since the date of my last week's despatches.

2. I beg to state that on the night of the 28th instant there was a popular demon-

stration in this town in favour of war, but no excesses or acts of violence were committed requiring the interference of the police.

3. The Greek mail steamer, which arrived here on the night of the 29th instant, brought me no reports from the Vice-Consuls at Zante and Cephalonia, but from a private source I learn that a strong demonstration took place last week at the former island in favour of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 145.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Santa Maura, January 26, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that Colonel Sapouzakis, commanding the Missolonghi division, arrived here on last Monday evening, his reception having been made the occasion of a warlike demonstration. A telegram received here on that afternoon from Athens, announcing that an insurrection had broken out in Macedonia, and that the insurgents had had a successful engagement with the Turkish troops near the village of Stromnizza (?), as also, that a band of 600 volunteers had crossed over to Thessaly, and that a rising in Epirus was impending, added, perhaps, not a little towards exciting the warlike temper of the crowd assembled at the landing-place, accompanied by the Philharmonic band playing the National Anthem, and greeting the Colonel with cheers for the war.

After inspecting the fort and the troops, Colonel Sapouzakis proceeded, on Wednesday morning, to Vonitza, whence he was to return to Missolonghi. He is said to have recommended that the fort of Santa Maura should at once be placed in a state of defence consistent with modern warfare; and as regards the twelve Krupp mountain guns landed here last week, he is said to have found them too small, and utterly unfit for any serious offensive or defensive purpose.

2. Further supplies of war material were landed here this week from Trieste, viz., fourteen cases of "Gras" rifles by Austrian Lloyd steamer on Sunday last, and 1,500 cases containing rifles (Gras) and cartridges by a Greek sailing vessel, on account of the Patriotic Committees. A portion of the latter cargo was at once sent by a small sailing boat to Missolonghi, and the remainder was deposited in the fort.

3. These large deposits of arms and ammunition, which have been accumulating here since last summer, partly on account of the Government, partly on account of Patriotic Committees, strikingly contrast with the scarcity of wheat in this market, of which there is at present but a very small stock. Alarmed at the prospect of war, and urged by the notables of the place to take timely measures, the Municipal Council resolved the other day upon procuring about 6,000 bushels of wheat from Corfu, a quantity equal to about three months' local consumption. But as the garrisons of Vonitza, Saverda, and Astakos mainly depend on this market for bread, the above quantity would not be sufficient to meet the contingency of war, should this break out in the interval, as the island might at any moment be blockaded.

4. Whilst telegrams poured in this week from all quarters, announcing that bands of insurgents had made their appearance in Thessaly and Macedonia, in one instance with success, and that a rising in Epirus was impending, news from a trustworthy source received here yesterday from the latter province assures us that all is still quiet there.

Further war material and provisions have been landed at Prevesa in the course of the week.

5. Since the formation of the new Cabinet, war between Greece and Turkey is spoken of as certain, the tone of public opinion is extremely warlike, and the Committees are displaying the greatest activity.

6. Since writing the above, a telegram has been received here stating that Colonel Grivas has been appointed Commander of the division of Western Greece. The fort is to be mounted with heavy Krupp guns, which will be brought here by the "Amphitrite" in the course of the week, and earthworks are to be thrown up on the side of the "Punta" (Actium).

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 145*.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, February 4.)

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le 2 février*, 1878.

AUJOURD'HUI je vous envoie une note dont voici le résumé. Vous savez que l'insurrection a éclaté en Thessalie, menaçant de se propager en d'autres provinces. Le Gouvernement Royal a la conscience d'avoir tout fait pour prévenir ce mouvement, pouvant avoir des suites graves pour la sécurité du Royaume. Non seulement a-t-il taché d'apaiser les esprits, mais il a sévi de toutes ses forces contre les moteurs d'agissements clandestins. Malgré ses efforts pacifiques, les Chrétiens de la Thessalie, poussé à bout, ont pris les armes; les Crétois sont revoltés, et les Chrétiens d'autres provinces suivent leur exemple. Le Gouvernement Royal, voyant avec émotion le désespoir auquel cette perspective affreuse a poussé les Chrétiens, ne peut s'en dissimuler les suites. Le cri de révolte retentira dans le Royaume et l'effervescence des esprits aggravera notre situation; car les rayas Grecs sont considérés comme frères par les habitants du Royaume. Les vexations et les souffrances des habitants des provinces Grecques de la Turquie sont connues de tout le monde, et on sait surtout quelles ont été les exploits des Circassiens et des Bachi-Bazouks en Turquie. Le Gouvernement Royal a toujours protesté contre la colonisation des Circassiens et l'emploi de troupes irrégulières dans les provinces limitrophes. La Sublime Porte a toujours refusé de faire droit à nos reclamations, et les Gouvernements Européens ne pouvident l'y forcer. Lord Derby a même dernièrement rendu justice à nos plaintes. Si le Gouvernement Ottoman pouvait disposer de troupes regulières pour la repression de la révolte, on pouvait au moins espérer que les malheurs, par suite de l'emploi des Circassiens et des Bachi-Bazouks, ne seraient etre renouvelés, les Chrétiens ne seraient égorgés et le monde civilisé ne regretterait trop tard qu'une Puissance Européenne n'aurait été présente pour réintigrer le malheur et pour conjurer les périls.

Le Gouvernement Royal a donc résolu d'occuper provisoirement avec son armée les provinces Grecques de la Turquie. Cette mesure, qui paraîtra hazardée, n'est au fond ni injustifiable, ni insolite. La Grèce ne veut pas faire la guerre à la Turquie; mais garantir sa propre sécurité et contribuer à l'amélioration définite de la condition des provinces Grecques de l'Empire Ottoman.

Cette mesure ne nous est suggérée, ni par des vues ambitieuses, ni par une tendance subversive, mais par le désir de l'ordre et des vues d'humanité. Comme la Turquie peut l'envisager autrement, et nous déclarer la guerre, je vous prie d'appeler l'attention du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité sur cette grave complication, afin que le désastre d'une pareille éventualité soit évité ou diminué. Vous êtes invité de donner lecture de cette note à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

January 27.

P.S.—Six of the new Krupp mountain guns alluded to in paragraph 2 have this morning been shipped off to Missolonghi, as the battery of artillery which was expected here has been ordered to remain at that place.

F. O.

Inclosure 2 in No. 145.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Santa Maura, January* 27, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that in consequence of a telegram from Athens received here this morning, announcing that the Russian preliminaries of peace with Turkey were signed—an event which has caused the greatest disappointment among the Leucadians—a demonstration urging war against Turkey has been made this afternoon, at 2 o'clock, by some 900 or 1,000 persons of all classes of the community. They proceeded to the Eparch's house, and, amid the usual cries of war, induced that functionary to accompany them to the telegraph office and wire to the Minister of the Interior "that the people of Leucadia urged the Government to make war with Turkey."

This having been done, the crowd separated.

Great excitement prevails.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 146.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received February* 4.)

Sir, *Admiralty, February* 2, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Derby, that the following telegram was received last night from the Senior Naval Officer at Malta, viz.:—

"Consul at Naples telegraphs:—

"'Italian squadron, composed of "Venezia," "Palestro," and "Messaggero" has sailed morning of 31st. Destination supposed to be Salonica.'"

I am, &c.

(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

No. 147.

Count Andrassy to Count Beust.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Beust, February* 4.)

(Télégraphique.) *Vienne, le 3 Février*, 1878.

L'AUTRICHE-HONGRIE, en sa qualité de Puissance Signataire des Actes internationaux qui ont eu pour objet de régler le système politique en Orient, a toujours réservé, en présence de la guerre actuelle, sa part d'influence sur le règlement définitif des conditions de la paix future.

Le Gouvernement Impérial de la Russie, auquel nous avons fait part de ce point de vue, l'a pleinement apprécié.

Aujourd'hui que des préliminaires de paix viennent d'être signés entre la Russie et la Turquie, le moment nous semble venu d'établir l'accord de l'Europe sur les modifications qu'il deviendrait nécessaire d'apporter aux Traités susmentionnés.

Le mode le plus apte à amener cette entente nous paraît être la réunion d'une Conférence des Puissances Signataires.

Nous espérons qu'on nous saura gré de prendre l'initiative en cette circonstance.

Votre Excellence est donc autorisé d'inviter le Cabinet de St. James à vouloir bien participer à une Conférence des Puissances Signataires.

La nature particulièrement amicale de nos relations réciproques nous permet d'espérer que le Gouvernement Anglais n'aura pas d'objection contre la réunion de la Conférence à Vienne.

Votre Excellence voudra bien prier Lord Derby de nous faire connaître sa réponse le plus tôt possible.

Aussitôt que l'acceptation en principe de notre invitation par les Cabinets invités nous sera connue, nous nous empresserons de leur proposer le mode et la date de la réunion.

No. 148.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 7.) *Vienna, February 3, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR Lordship's telegrams sent 10 P.M. and 7·41 P.M. yesterday respecting Conference have been communicated to Count Andrassy. I have not been able to see him, but he writes that he entirely shares the opinions expressed in them, and that he has to-day sent off the invitations for a Conference at Vienna.

He is officially informed from St. Petersburgh that the general bases of peace and the armistice were signed on 31st.

No. 149.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

Athens, February 3, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

AS bases of peace and armistice appear to have been signed on the 31st instant, (ultimo?) the Greek troops are probably not included in the conditions of armistice.

Turkish Minister here thinks that protecting Powers might conjointly induce Greece to recall her troops.

No. 150.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 152.) *Constantinople, February 3, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Consul Barker yesterday:—

"Italian Rear-Admiral in command of squadron expected here daily in flag-ship 'Roma.' Other iron-clad, the 'Terribile' arrived to-day."

No. 151.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 153. Secret.) *Pera, February 3, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

IT is the present intention of the Porte to send at once four iron-clads under Hobart Pasha and Army Corps of ten battalions to Piræus. There is great exasperation against Greeks.

No. 152.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 154.) *Constantinople, February 3, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

LONGWORTH telegraphs from Carditza that over 300 Greek insurgents have crossed the frontier in that neighbourhood.

No. 153.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 155.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February 3, 1878.*

PORTE asks my opinion as to the course to be pursued as regards the Turkish Minister at Athens and Greek Minister here, which I have declined to give. Should you wish me to take any steps to prevent war there may be still time.

Porte contemplates sending a Circular to its Representatives abroad showing the fallacy of the grounds assigned by the Greeks for the invasion, and pointing out that arrangements for the improvement of the condition of the Greek Christians in invaded provinces have already been secured in the bases of peace accepted by Turkey.

No. 154.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 156.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February 3, 1878.*

AS far as Porte knows no term is fixed for the duration of armistice. As Porte is called upon to send a Plenipotentiary to conclude at once preliminaries of peace, it will be compelled to accept any conditions, under threat of immediate renewal of hostilities, and Russians are now in a position to move upon Constantinople in force from three points. After the many proofs of duplicity recently given by Russia, it behoves Her Majesty's Government to be on their guard.

Grand Duke Nicholas made no mention of Montenegro and Servia as included in the armistice. Porte has telegraphed to the Plenipotentiaries to clear up this point.

No. 155.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 4, 1878.*

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS telegraphs as follows, dated Adrianople, Thursday, January 31:—

"Porte has accepted conditions of peace, and Protocol has just been signed by me and Turkish Delegates.

"Armistice also concluded and signed. Order to suspend hostilities immediately sent to all detachments and to Caucasus. All the fortresses of Danube and Erzeroum are to be evacuated."

No. 156.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 4, 1878.*

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS telegraphs, dated Adrianople, January 29:—

"General Strukow advanced to-day from Goule Bourgus. He met 180,000 to to 200,000 Turks and Circassians, with 20,000 waggons, on their flight.

"Greater part returned. Others went on to Rodosto. He took several bands of Bashi-Bazouks, Circassians, and regulars, prisoners, with their officers and baggage, among which were two flags."

Dated January 30:—

"General Strukow received on the 28th instant a communication from a Vice-Consul at Rodosto, begging him to hasten his arrival, to protect town from pillage by Circassians. He was consequently ordered to proceed there immediately."

No. 157.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4, 4·15 P.M.)

Paris, February 4, 1878, 12·44 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that Austrian Ambassador has this morning made to him a formal proposal for a Conference to be held at Vienna, and that he has accepted the Conference in principle.

He tells me also that he has no objection to Vienna if the other Powers agree to that place.

I have said to him that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve of Vienna.

No. 158.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4, 4·10 P.M.)

Paris, February 4, 1878, 1 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram dated the 2nd instant, 5·50 P.M., French Minister for Foreign Affairs has reason to think that the Russians will not go to Constantinople; but his personal opinion is that, if they do go, it will be necessary for France to send some ships of war there to protect French citizens and French interests.

He will consult his colleagues on the subject to-morrow.

No. 159.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4, 4·44 P.M.)

Rome, February 4, 1878, 2·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to my note of the 30th ultimo, the note of M. Depretis, dated yesterday, says that the Italian Government is also of opinion that in principle the questions regulated by a Treaty between several Powers cannot be made the object of ulterior arrangements having force for some of them, unless they receive the sanction of the same contracting Powers.

On the other hand, the declarations which the Russian Cabinet has already made on this subject to some other Cabinets set aside the opportunity for the Italian Government to depart from the reserve which they thought it advisable to maintain hitherto.

No. 160.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

Berlin, February 4, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

AUSTRIAN Ambassador has this day presented an official note to the German Government inviting them to take part in a European Conference at Vienna for the settlement of Turkish affairs.

The acceptance of the German Government is, I believe, certain.

No. 161.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

Belgrade, February 4, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE MILAN, in consequence of communication of the Russian Commander-in-chief, issued orders to effect immediate stoppage of hostilities. The Grand Duke informed Prince at same time that Servian interests had been properly secured by the preliminaries.

No. 162.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 2)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 4, 1878.*

I HAD to-day an audience of the Emperor, at which I put into His Majesty's hands the Queen's letter accrediting me as her Ambassador at his Court.

The Emperor spoke to me of his anxiety that the closest intimacy and understanding should be maintained between our two countries.

The terms for the future pacification in the East were about to be arranged, and the prospect of their being made such as to give hopes of permanent tranquillity would greatly depend on maintenance of a thorough understanding between the British and Austrian Governments.

I said that this was precisely the view of Her Majesty's Government, who had yesterday directed me to inform Count Andrassy that they adhered to the agreement about the seven points put forward by Austria, and that they hoped to exchange confidential communications with the Imperial Government with respect to further details.

Count Andrassy had apparently not informed the Emperor of this communication, at which he expressed the most lively satisfaction.

The Russian Government had, His Majesty said, not yet given any reply to the proposal that the Conference should be held in Vienna.

No. 163.

Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, February 4, 1878.*

WIDDIN and Belgradzik* are being occupied by the Roumanians, according to the terms of the armistice.

No. 164.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 4, 1878, 5·45 P.M.*

THE seven points are enumerated in Count Andrassy's despatch of July 26, page No. 63, of the Secret and Confidential correspondence.

No. 165.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Embassies.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 4, 1878.*

AUSTRIAN Ambassador has communicated to me a telegram from Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that Austria, as a Signatory of the international acts which regulate the political system in the East, has reserved during the present war her share of influence over the definitive settlement of the conditions of peace. The Russian Government, to whom she communicated this view, fully appreciated it.

The preliminaries of peace having been now signed, the moment seems arrived to establish an European agreement as to the modifications which it may become necessary to introduce into the above-mentioned Treaties.

The fittest mode of arriving at such an understanding appears to the Austrian Government to be the assembling of a Conference of the Signatory Powers.

They hope that their initiative will be favourably received; and Count Beust stated that he was authorized to invite Her Majesty's Government to participate in a Conference of the Signatory Powers at Vienna.

I said that in the name of Her Majesty's Government I accepted the Conference, and that we agreed to its being held at Vienna.

---

* Belgradzik is about 30 miles south of Widdin.

No. 166.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 145.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 4, 1878.

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram of the 3rd instant, inquiring what are the seven points, with regard to the conditions of peace, upon which the Austro-Hungarian Government takes its stand, I have to inform your Excellency that they are enumerated in Count Andrassy's despatch of the 26th July, which is to be found at page 63 of the volume of Secret and Confidential correspondence sent to you on the 17th ultimo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 167.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.[a]

(No. 88.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 4, 1878.

THE Austro-Hungarian Ambassador communicated to me to-day a telegram which his Excellency had received from the Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, of which I now transmit a copy for your Excellency's information.

The object of this communication is to invite Her Majesty's Government to an International Conference at Vienna, in which the Signatory Powers to the international acts which regulate the political system in the East should participate, with a view to establish an European agreement as to the modifications which it may become necessary to introduce into the existing Treaties.

I said that in the name of Her Majesty's Government I accepted the Conference, and that they agreed to its being held at Vienna.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 168.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 48.)

My Lord, *Athens, January* 26, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a summary by M. Lambros of the speech delivered by M. Coumoundouros on his presenting himself on the $\frac{13}{25}$th instant to the Chamber of Deputies as President of the Government which he formed on the resignation of the Coalition Ministry.

M. Coumoundouros stated that the programme of the Government was the "active and effective protection and defence of Hellenism and of their oppressed and prostrate brethren." But, he went on to say: "Under the circumstances in which we find ourselves words must not infatuate us. Let us wait events. Let us hope that events will declare themselves in our favour; prudence, therefore, is much more necessary than enthusiasm." He also made allusion to the Constitution, stating that the Government would act in accordance with it.

On the same day the Government presented a Bill to the Chamber, the first reading of which was at once passed, to empower the military authorities to make requisitions upon the population for everything which might be required for the troops and for the furtherance of military operations. I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship a translation from the "Hora" of the principal provisions of this Bill.

The Government also laid before the Chamber a Bill for the enrolment of the National Guard.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

---

[a] Similar despatches were addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Berlin, Constantinople, Paris, Rome and St. Petersburgh.

Inclosure 1 in No. 168.

Extract from Minutes of the Chamber.—Sitting of January $\frac{13}{25}$, 1878.

MINUTES of previous sitting read and approved.

* * * * *

M. Coumoundouros, Premier.—Gentlemen, after the resignation of the Coalition Ministry, or rather, as we named it, the communic Government, for which I sincerely avow I had no desire, and for the maintenance of which not only I was in favour but I fought for, His Majesty intrusted me with the formation of a new Government. I felt, Gentlemen, all the weight of the duty entrusted to me, for I, as well as you, am aware of the circumstances and dangers which surround us. Nevertheless, both I and my honourable colleagues were of opinion that we could not avoid this sacrifice, indeed it really being a sacrifice to accept at such a moment the direction of public affairs. We therefore decided upon accepting office, and now present ourselves before you as Ministers.

Our programme consists of only two words, which two words, however, comprise many things: The active and effective protection and defence of Hellenism, and of our oppressed and prostrate brethren. (Much cheering.)

Gentlemen, under the circumstances in which we find ourselves, words must not infatuate us. Let us await events. Let us hope that events will declare themselves in our favour; prudence, therefore, is much more necessary than enthusiasm.

The measures which we consider best adapted for the realisation of our programme we shall submit to you within a day or two. I hope this delay will not surprise you, since amongst us you perceive new colleagues who are only now being made acquainted with the state of affairs and with the service. I am, therefore, absolutely under the necessity of demanding this delay, during which will be prepared the measures to be submitted to you. We, gentlemen, the only and exclusive executors of the decisions of the King and of your own, shall act upon all occasions with you.

The application of the Constitution which regulates our relations, will continue to be fully applied, for upon the full observation of the Consitation rests the power of all government.

For the present I beg the Chamber to give precedence to the discussion of the National Guard Bill—to the discussion of the Bill which my honourable colleagues will submit to you respecting requisitions, and to the discussion of the Budget.

The Chamber approves the urgency of the discussion of the Bill on the National Guard.

M. Ath. Petimezas.—Why has the Government of the four Premiers resigned so suddenly, though supported by the Chamber and the nation, and what reasons compelled them to this?

After some discussion on the subject, M. Petimezas' motion was put to the vote, and the Chamber rejected it by 80 votes against 31.

Inclosure 2 in No. 168.

Extract from the "Hora" of January $\frac{14}{26}$, 1878.

ACCORDING to the bill introduced into the Chamber concerning requisitions, the military, in order to obtain what they require, may impose upon the inhabitants requisitions for lodgings, food, transport, and labour, each person being obliged to contribute the objects of which he is in possession. The imposition of a requisition is either for a temporary or permanent use of the objects required. Houses, mills, ovens, and factories for the manufacture of required stores of war, are subject to temporary use, but the means of transport may either be temporary or permanent. Requisitions are executed after previous indemnity, regulated by valuation, and on the event of material being destroyed a demand for indemnity must be made within fifteen days. Only the Minister of War and of Marine are authorized to exact permanent requisitions. The Chefs de Corps or of sections, and the commanders of vessels, may exact temporary requisitions. Light cooking utensils, fuel for cooking, stores to place material in, come under the head of perishable requisitions. The police authorities may impose, if necessary, a tarif upon all provisions and forage, and will require all male persons capable of working to contribute personal labour on condition of an indemnity. The bill contains some other enactments, regulating its operation.

No. 169.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 50.)
Athens, January 26, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a sitting of the Chamber of Deputies was to have taken place this afternoon, at which the Government was to have brought forward the question of Greece going to war. In consequence, however, of the receipt this morning of telegrams announcing that peace was on the point of being concluded, the Chamber has not met.

I am informed that the King's horses left Athens yesterday, and that it was the intention of His Majesty to leave for Lamia next Monday, the 28th instant.

I have been also informed that up to last night persons were going over the frontiers into Turkey with money in order to induce the Christians in Thessaly and Epirus to rise in revolt, a policy quite in accordance, I am told, with M. Coumoundouros' views.

There is great popular excitement in Athens to-day in consequence of the reported peace, which is a severe blow to the aspirations of the Greeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 170.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 97.)
Paris, February 4, 1878.

My Lord,

M. JON GHIKA called upon me this afternoon, and told me that he had just arrived at Paris from Vienna, and that he intended to go on very soon to London.

His journey had, he said, been undertaken by him in the hope that it might be beneficial to his country, which was in a most painful and dangerous situation.

In the present she was threatened with having her Bessarabian territory torn from her by Russia; and in the future, the maintenance of the progress she had made in civilization, if not her very existence, would be in constant jeopardy. The safeguard which she had enjoyed, as a part of the Ottoman Empire, in virtue of the guarantee of the Powers of Europe, seemed likely to disappear, and all that would remain to her as a defence against Russian encroachment would be the possible support of Austria. He doubted, however, whether this support would be afforded with so much constancy and vigour as to give any sufficient security. He had come in the hope that the Powers of Europe would do something for his unhappy country in the approaching settlement of the Eastern question. He thought that all of them were interested in protecting the independence, the civilization, and the commerce of Roumania from being swamped by Russia; but he must confess that it was on England that almost all his hopes rested.

He spoke in the strongest terms of the determination of the Roumanians to resist to the utmost of their power all endeavours to deprive them of Bessarabia; and he declared that, so far from the Dobrudscha being any compensation, the possession of it would be a positive injury to his country. Not only was it in itself little more than a marsh, but the population was a mixture of all that was most disorderly among the various races of the Levant, and it would require a larger army than Roumania could provide to keep order among the Tartars, the Circassians, and the other heterogeneous races who had resorted to this unhappy region.

I asked M. Jon Ghika if he had any mission from the Roumanian Government. He said that he was opposed to the policy pursued during the war by the present Ministers at Bucharest, and that he had no mission, official, or even "officious," from them. He added, however, that he had communicated with them about his journey, and that they approved of it, and of the object with which it was undertaken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 171.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated confidentially to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February 5.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 3 Février, 1878.

LA réunion d'une Conférence Européenne semble se confirmer. Mais la Turquie ne pourrait être laissée en dehors sans méconnaître les actes internationaux intervenus jusqu'à ce jour, sans compromettre l'œuvre que les Puissances ont en vue et que viserait la réunion d'une nouvelle Conférence.

La Turquie, devant les échecs que lui a fait subir le sort des armes sur les champs de bataille, a dû accepter des conditions dures des mains du vainqueur; mais son exclusion d'une réunion des Puissances appelées à régler des questions qui la concernent serait peut-être la plus dure de toutes ces conditions, parce qu'elle serait, si ce n'est la négation de son existence comme Puissance, son abaissement, et la perte totale de son prestige et de son autorité dans ses propres Etats. A nos yeux c'était le vice capital du Protocole de Londres.

Je prie votre Excellence de signifier, d'une manière tout-à-fait confidentielle, à la bienveillante attention de Lord Derby, la gravité d'une pareille exclusion, et de nous rassurer à cet égard.

No. 172.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)

(Telegraphic.)
Athens, February 4, 1878, 6·55 P.M.

THE Turkish fleet will probably arrive to-morrow off the Piræus. All serious resistance being impossible, the Hellenic Government at this moment deliberating as to whether it should not appeal to the good advices of the Great Powers, comply with the advice they give, and recall the troops from Thessaly on the solemn condition that the lives, honour, and property of the populations of that Province shall be protected, and that their interests shall be the object of deliberations in the Congress. I venture to request your Lordship's instructions in this eventuality.

All my colleagues are addressing an analogous communication to their respective Governments.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 173.

Consul Mark to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)

(Telegraphic.)
Marseilles, February 4, 1878, 9·10 P.M.

THE frigate "Heroine" left on 25th ultimo for Smyrna. The "Gauloise," "Guyenne," and "Couronne" on the 27th for the Levant under Admiral Le Jeune.

No. 174.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5, 9 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
Paris, February 5, 1878, 12·5 A.M.

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs is informed that the Turkish fleet has sailed for the Piræus to attack Athens, and will probably arrive there to-morrow evening;[a] and he has instructed the French Minister at Athens to remonstrate in the strongest manner against the proceedings of the Greek Government, and to urge them to recall at once the troops that have crossed the frontier.

---

[a] *Qy.* "this evening?"

No. 175.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February 5, 1878.*

FOLLOWING sent to Colonel Mansfield this morning:—

"Servian Government much concerned in consequence of information that General Ignatiew had, on his passage through Bucharest, made offer to Roumania of Widdin in the territorial exchanges proposed to the Principalities."

No. 176.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 5, 1878.*

I REGRET to report assassination of General Trepow, Prefect of St. Petersburgh, by a young girl, whilst presenting to him a petition.

No. 177.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, February 5, 1878.*

I AM happy to inform your Lordship that orders have been given to-day to Greek troops not to advance further into Thessaly. They are said to be near Domoco.

(Sent to Constantinople).

No. 178.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 5, 1878.*

AFTER parade on Sunday the Emperor addressed Generals and Officers as follows:—

"I congratulate you on the conclusion of an armistice on conditions so favourable to us. We are indebted for it to our glorious troops, who have proved that nothing is impossible for them. But still much more remains to be done, and we must hold ourselves ready so long as we have not obtained a peace durable and worthy of Russia."

Foregoing is official text. Report says Emperor's language was even stronger. It has produced some uneasiness.

No. 179.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 5, 1878, 12·50 P.M.*

IS the blockade of the Russian Black Sea ports raised?

Report by telegraph.

No. 180.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 5, 1878, 5·10 P.M.*

THE following telegram has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris to-day:—

"French Minister for Foreign Affairs is informed that the Turkish fleet has sailed for the Pireus to attack Athens, and will probably arrive there to-morrow evening, and he has instructed the French Minister at Athens to remonstrate in the strongest manner against the proceedings of the Greek Government and to urge them to recall at once the troops that have crossed the frontier."

You should join your French colleague in the representations he is making to the Greek Government.

You may at the same time repeat the assurance contained in my despatch No. 34, Confidential, of the 2nd of July last, that so far as may lie in the power of Her Majesty's Government they will, when the time comes for the consideration of the settlement of the questions arising out of the war, be ready to use their best influence to secure for the Greek population in the Turkish provinces any administrative reforms or advantages which may be conferred upon the Christian population of any other race.

No. 181.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 5, 1878.*

I HAVE been informed by the Austrian Ambassador to-day that the French and Italian Governments have signified their acceptance of the Conference and have agreed to its meeting at Vienna.

No. 182.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5, 5·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February 5, 1878, 3·45 P.M.*

ITALIAN Government have accepted formal invitation to the Conference at Vienna, which was made yesterday by Austrian Ambassador.

The text of the armistice and bases of peace is not yet known here.

M. Depretis has heard from Constantinople that 8,000 Turkish troops have been ordered to Thessaly and 10,000 to Candia.

Though he trusts Conference may result in a durable peace, his Excellency is very anxious that the House of Commons should vote credit demanded by Her Majesty's Government; but this is, of course, confidential.

No. 183.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 84.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 5, 1878.*

THE French Ambassador read to me to-day a telegram from his Government, stating that they had heard from Athens that Greek troops had entered Thessaly without any declaration of war, and without any apparent justification for so serious a decision.

The Representative of the Porte had communicated to the French Government a formal protest against a step which he rightly described as a violation of international law, calling for immediate measures of reprisal.

The Porte has asked of France, as a Guaranteeing Power, to use her influence with the Greek Government to stop them from continuing this course of proceeding. The French Government have already heard that the Turkish fleet is on its way to the Pireus, and under these circumstances, they have telegraphed to the French Minister at Athens instructing him to address without delay the strongest remonstrance to the Greek Government, and to endeavour to obtain the recall of the Greek troops, by representing how severely the step that has been taken may be condemned at the moment when a European Conference is about to assemble. M. Tissot has been instructed to concert with his colleagues, and especially with the Representatives of the two other Guaranteeing Powers, and the French Government hope that a collective representation may prevent reprisals on the part of the Ottoman fleet.

M. Waddington instructs M. d'Harcourt to communicate the substance of the foregoing telegram to me, adding that he does not doubt that Her Majesty's Government will act in the same sense.

I thanked his Excellency for this communication, and stated that, on learning from

your Excellency the nature of the instructions sent to M. Tissot, I had informed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens of the fact, and had authorized him to speak in the same sense. I had not as yet received any communication on the subject from the Porte, but possibly Musurus Pasha might make one in the course of the day.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 184.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 90.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 5, 1878.*

THE Austrian Ambassador informed me to-day that the Conference has been accepted by the Italian and French Governments, who have agreed to its meeting at Vienna.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 185.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 91.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 5, 1878.*

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the language you held to Prince Jon Ghika, as reported in your despatch No. 63 of the 27th ultimo, on the subject of the fears entertained by Roumania of the annexation of Bessarabia by Russia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 186.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 152.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 5, 1878.*

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to report to me by telegraph whether the blockade of the Russian Black Sea ports is raised.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 187.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 10.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 5, 1878.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a telegram which I have this day received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris,* reporting that the French Minister at Athens had been instructed to remonstrate in the strongest manner against the proceedings of the Greek Government, and to urge them to recall at once the troops that have crossed the frontier.

I have to instruct you to join with your French colleague in the representations which he will in consequence make to the Greek Government; and you may, at the same time, repeat the assurance contained in my despatch No. 34, Confidential, of the 2nd July last, that so far as may lie in the power of Her Majesty's Government, they will, when the time comes for the consideration of the settlement of the questions arising out of the war, be ready to use their best influence to secure for the Greek population in the Turkish provinces any administrative reforms or advantages which may be conferred upon the Christian population of any other race.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

---

* No. 174.

No. 188.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General Eldridge.

(No. 1. Political.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 5, 1878.*

I APPROVE the steps taken by you to relieve the distress of a number of Bulgarian prisoners from Constantinople, as reported in your despatch No. 4, Political, of the 12th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 189.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, February 5.)

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le 5 Février, 1878.*

LES troupes Grecques franchirent les frontières avant que la signature des préliminaires et de l'armistice fût connue au Gouvernement. Si les Grandes Puissances veulent garantir la sécurité des habitants des Provinces Grecques de la Turquie et la protection de leurs droits, le Gouvernement Royal est tout disposé à donner l'ordre à ses troupes de se retirer.

No. 190.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 12. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, January 14, 1878.*

ON the news having reached this that the Russians had, on the 4th instant, made their appearance at Ilidja, on the Trebizond road, great disquietude prevailed among the inhabitants of this town. It was, however, attenuated by the fact that, although the 1,700 Turkish cavalry stationed at Kara Bujuk had fallen back to Ashkaleh, a sortie of the garrison of that place had compelled the Russians to withdraw.

But subsequent information that the Russian cavalry had driven in the Turkish forces at Ashkaleh, and advanced as far as Perna Kapan, with the additional wild rumour that they had also taken Baïburt, and had been seen in the vicinity of Gumushané, produced great consternation in this town.

So much so that the Governor-General was compelled to assemble the leading Mussulmans of Trebizond on the 12th, and to show them telegrams from Baïburt proving that the additional rumour was without foundation.

The circumstance that no Christians had been invited to assist at this assembly gave rise to all sorts of speculation.

The great excitement has now subsided, but the impression has remained that the Russians will push so far as this town.

However, taking into consideration the impossibility to procure provisions along the road for a large body of men, the difficulty to carry these, as well as munitions and artillery over a road which, in its present condition, is almost impracticable at this time of the year, and the danger to which an army engaged in narrow gorges, and unable to move rapidly would be exposed, it is presumable that, should it be the intention of the Russians to take possession of Trebizond, they will postpone the execution of their plan till next spring.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 191.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 13. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, January 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that on Tuesday last the Firman for the formation of the Civic Guard at Trebizond was published by order of the Porte, and that its execution

has been postponed for a few weeks in consequence of more pressing duties to carry out.

All the Mussulmans between the age of 20 and 40, who are not called to serve in the field, are to be embodied in it. The service is not compulsory for the Christians, who are admitted as volunteers.

The latter have, at present, no intention to enrol. However, this abstention on their part can hardly be reconciled with their often-expressed dread of being without arms while the Mussulmans are armed, nor with their pretended desire to be admitted in the army.

They explain that they should have been allowed to enter the army in time of peace, and not in circumstances when their services may be required in the field.

However, the very fact of their volunteering under the standard in a time of danger for the Empire would secure to them a privilege which the Turks have always been loath to grant, and the denial of which is one of their great grievances against the Porte, as it prevents them from enjoying all the advantages enjoyed by the Mussulman subjects of the Sultan.

Their being sent to the battle-field is a contingency which may never occur; but if it did, it would only render indissoluble the rights thus acquired. They say that they have no confidence in future privileges to be obtained by present sacrifices, and they very ingeniously add that, as they have not been accustomed to fight, they are now reluctant to face the enemy.

It would be erroneous to suppose that they are influenced by their sympathies for Russia. A few fanatical Christians—and I have heard, indeed, the opinion expressed—may be actuated by their unwillingness to fight under the Crescent against the Cross, but the general feeling is adverse to Russia.

The Christians were clamouring against Turkish administration, several of them, and some Mussulmans in the number were expressing the wish that the Russians should take possession of this province, but now that they are approaching their presence is dreaded.

I do not mean to say that there are not still a few of both races in whom this sentiment is not counterbalanced by the greed of money; this minority is under the illusion, in consequence of cases of liberality which are related to have taken place in the occupied districts of Armenia, that the presence of the Russians will fill their pockets with gold.

But the feeling in general is that if the Russians must come the quicker they arrive the sooner the present crisis—the consequences of which weigh so heavily on the populations—will be over. They are moved by weariness, but not by sympathy for Russia, and a permanent occupation of the province by the enemy would find very few partizans among its Christian inhabitants. I have heard several say that they would emigrate rather than live under Russian rule.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 192.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 6.)

(No. 7. Political.)

Beyrout, January 19, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 5 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a further despatch and its inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the disorders in certain districts of the Mustessariflks of Tripoli and Hamah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No 192.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Beyrout, January* 19, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 13th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of further report, with précis of its inclosures, which I have received from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Blanche, giving details of fresh outrages committed in the districts of Akkar, Safita, and Hosn, situated in the Mutaserifliks of Tripoli and Hamah. Inclosure No. 3 in Mr. Blanche's report forms inclosure No. 4 in a previous despatch.

However much these acts of violence committed against the peaceable inhabitants of these districts are to be regretted, it is, at least, a satisfaction to find that Aziz Pasha is doing his utmost to put a stop to them; though it would appear from the report of Mr. Blanche he is only able partially to succeed, owing to the want of proper support on the one hand, and to the want of sufficient aid in carrying out his measures on the part of his subordinates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 192.

Vice-Consul Blanche to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général, *Tripoli, le* 15 *Janvier*, 1878.

DEPUIS quelques temps, les désordres se multiplient dans le Sandjak de Tripoli, de façon à inspirer de sérieuses inquiétudes. J'ai reçu à cet égard diverses requêtes que j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-inclus, savoir:—

1. Requête des Chrétiens Orthodoxes de Cartouse, victimes d'un acte de brigandage commis par des Ansariyehs, avec blessures graves.

2. Requête des Chrétiens Maronites de Machta (Safita) au sujet de trois assassinats commis chez eux par des Chrétiens Orthodoxes de la famille Beit-el-Helou, cette pièce ne m'ayant pas été adressée en double expédition, j'en envoie une copie.

3. Requête du clergé Orthodoxe de Safita contre les brigandages des Ansariyehs en général, et dans laquelle les assassinats mentionnés ci-dessus sont attribués aux Ansariyehs. Les requérants m'ayant assuré qu'ils ont envoyé directement cette requête au Consulat-Général Britannique, cette pièce n'est pas dans le présent pli; elle n'est mentionné ici que pour mémoire.

4. Requête des Chrétiens Maronites de Beit-Millade à Akkar contre leurs voisins Musulmans, qui ont tué ou blessé grièvement trois des leurs.

Précédemment, j'ai transmis au Consulat-Général une requête des Chrétiens Maronites d'Antaket à Akkar contre les Musulmans Dendechlis.

Tous ces faits survenus en moins d'un mois, et sur des points très divers, constituent un état de désordre caractérisé. J'en ai entretenu fréquemment le Moutsarref Aziz Pacha, et je ne puis que rendre justice à la promptitude et à la précision des mesures qu'il a prises pour couper court au mal. Il y réussira, pour peu qu'il soit secondé par ses agents. Il a tenu aux membres de ses Tribunaux un langage énergique, auquel ils sont peu habitués. C'est malheureusement de là que viennent trop souvent les obstacles occultes qui paralysent les meilleures volontés des Gouverneurs. J'espère néanmoins que les efforts de notre Moutsarref auront les succès qu'ils méritent.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) BLANCHE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 192.

Précis of Petition from Christians of Tartous.

NOUS Soussignés, Chrétiens de Tartous, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que Lundi passé, le 31 Décembre, une trentaine d'individus sont venus attaquer vers minuit les deux maisons contigues du Curé Ibrahim et de son frère Jean, en demandant de leur en ouvrir les portes. Les propriétaires endormis se reveillèrent tout surpris et refusèrent de leur ouvrir, mais les assaillants se servant de leurs cimétères réussirent à forcer la porte de la maison de Jean Khouri; ils y pénétrèrent et assomèrent sous leurs

coups le malheureux propriétaire. La femme ayant jeté des grands cris, reçu une balle qui la blessa à la cuisse gauche ; elle tomba par terre et tâcha de sauver ses tresses de cheveux ornées de boucles en or, qu'un des assaillants cherchait à lui couper, mais elle ne réussit qu'à recevoir une blessure dans la paume de la main.

Jean Khouri a réussi à se sauver des mains des assaillants ; son frère, le Curé Ibrahim, ouvrit alors sa porte et sortit pour connaître de quoi il s'agissait ; il reçut à la tête un coup de massue qui le blessa. Il monta sur le terrasse et jeta des cris désespérés pour appeler à lui les zaptiehs, mais personne ne vint à son secours, et dans cette intervalle les assaillants se livraient tranquillement au pillage de deux maisons, enlevant tout ce qui tombait dans leurs mains, comme parures, argent, meubles, &c. Les femmes et les enfants eurent aussi les oreilles déchirées en leur arrachant les boucles d'oreille. Les objets et ornements d'église, déposés à la maison du Curé, furent aussi pillés. Le nommé Abdullah Cassis, un des voisins, s'étant risqué au dehors pour connaître la cause du vacarme, a reçu une balle qui le blessa à la poitrine assez dangereusement, et le voilà à sa maison de Tripoli se traiter sans échapper au danger.

Des assaillants, nous n'avons reconnu que trois, Abbas Chamyli et son frère Suleiman, aussi que Codris.

Après avoir tout pillé et enlevé, en assommant de coups et blessant les propriétaires, ils se retirèrent et ils venaient à peine de s'éloigner que nous vîmes arriver le Mudir, le Cdai, et les membres du tribunal. Ceux-ci invitèrent les pillards à restituer les objets pillés, mais ils refusèrent et continuèrent leur chemin. De leur côté, les autorités locales se bornèrent à constater le fait de pillage des deux maisons et virent les blessés.

Cet attentat a jeté la terreur parmi nous, et nous avons dû quitter nos maisons pour nous rendre en partie dans les villages et partie à la marine.

En vous soumettant ce qui précède, veuillez, nous vous prions, prendre en considération notre situation, et faire tels moyens à ce que nous puissions revenir chez nous en toute sécurité, et nous restituer les effets pillés.

(Signé) Les habitants de Tartous.

Le 5 Janvier, 1878.

Inclosure 4 in No. 192.

Précis of Petition from Maronite Priests.

LES prêtres Maronites des villages du Caza de Safita et du Nâhié de Hâzzour portent plainte contre les Grecs Orthodoxes, habitants du village de Mechta, de Safita, et du village de Kafroun, comme commettant plusieurs actes de violence, de pillage, et d'attentats à leur préjudice. Ils désignent les principaux auteurs des méfaits dont ils se plaignent et lesquels ont à leur tête les nommés Hulil-el-Helou et son fils Dâas, qui les guident dans leurs exploits, les armes à la main. Ces personnes ont attaqué, disent-ils, le quartier des Maronites dans le village de Kafroun le 24 Octobre passé, blessé sept personnes et pillé leurs maisons. Le 1er Novembre une attaque a été faite contre le village de Ain-Affiu, et ils ont pillé plusieurs maisons. Le 24 Novembre une autre attaque a été aussi faite contre le quartier de Beit-Sarkis de Safita ; ses propriétés ont été en partie dévastées et trois notables de la communauté Maronite ont été assassinés ; l'un d'eux est encore expirant.

Avant ces méfaits tout récents les susdits Grecs Orthodoxes avaient attaqué le village Maronite de Mechta de Safita et assassiné une personne.

Les pétitionnaires terminent leurs plaintes en priant de les faire parvenir au Vali de Syrie afin que des mesures soient prises pour mettre fin à ces actes et faire comparaître leurs agresseurs devant les Tribunaux du vilayet, à l'effet de leur infliger le châtiment qu'ils méritent.

[Suivent les signatures de huit curés.]

Le 27 Décembre, 1877.

Inclosure 5 in No. 192.

Précis of Petition of Inhabitants of Beit-Milad, in Akkar.

LES habitants du village de Beit-Milad se plaignent au Vice-Consulat d'Angleterre à Tripoli des actes de violence et de persécution de toutes sortes que leur font subir les Beys et Aghas du district d'Akkar. Ils se plaignent spécialement des habitants du village

de Tukrit, qui sont venus les attaquer le 4 Janvier de nuit, tuant deux des leurs et laissant un troisième expirant. Ils sollicitent l'intervention du dit Vice-Consul en leur faveur, afin que des mesures promptes et efficaces soient prises à l'effet de leur assurer leur sécurité ; ils ajoutent que, faute de quoi, leurs vies seraient en grand danger.

Le 6 Janvier, 1878.

No. 193.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 8. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, January 26, 1878.*

SINCE I had the honour of addressing your Lordship on the 21st instant, there has been a notable increase of excitement among the Christians of this island, due to the rapid progress of the Russian armies towards Constantinople.

As the Cretans have throughout this war regarded the Russians as their champions, they have been depressed or elated according as misfortune or success attended their arms. The constant influx from Greece of their countrymen who have been living in exile there has also tended to increase their enthusiasm. These returned Cretans, many of whom have brought supplies of arms, are gathering around them little bands of men, who are tempted to join by the combined attractions of pay and a love of adventure. Hitherto these irregular bands have not committed any breach of the peace beyond the destruction of one or two deserted block-houses. They are restrained by the Committee and the 200 delegates now assembled in Apokorona, who fairly represent the wishes of the Christian population.

Much impatience is manifested to know the attitude about to be taken by the Government in Greece. Should war break out there, it can hardly be doubted that it would be quickly followed by hostilities here. On this subject I feel it my duty to take notice of the recent conduct of my Greek colleague. I have always readily testified to his ceaseless activity in urging the Cretans to keep within the bounds of legal opposition to the Government, but during the past fortnight I have heard, from well-informed sources, that he has been busily preaching to them the necessity of using more violent remedies to vindicate their rights. The proofs I have on this point are such as to satisfy me, and I mention the circumstance because it would seem to betoken a change of policy towards this island on the part of the Ministry in Greece.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 194.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 9. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, January 27, 1878.*

THE elections of the Christian delegates having been completed throughout the island, I learnt that the Committee intimated the fact to the Commissioners, who were travelling with his Excellency the Governor-General in the eastern districts of the island. Hearing that they were very impatient to come to an understanding with them on account of the state of enthusiasm into which the inhabitants of Sphakia and Apokorona in particular had been thrown by the recent news from the seat of war, an enthusiasm which it was feared might lead to some hostile demonstration on the part of irresponsible Chiefs, I took upon myself to telegraph to Costaki Pasha on the 24th instant that the delegates were impatient to treat with his Excellency. The following morning the Commissioners and the Vali returned here by sea from Candia, and Costaki Pasha came to see me the same afternoon. His Excellency told me that an arrangement had been come to when he was last in Apokorona that on the completion of the elections a Commission of twelve or fifteen of the delegates should meet him and his colleague at the Convent of Chrysopege, situated in the plain of Canea, and that the discussions should take place there. I was in a position to know that even if such a plan had been agreed to (I was aware it had been proposed), the Committee was not prepared to carry it out, and I told his Excellency so. The pretext put forward by the Committee for not venturing so near the town is that

which has so often proved fatal to an understanding between the Porte and its rebellious subjects, viz., want of confidence; and, in the present instance, it is capable of being plausibly coloured by the midnight arrest and subsequent exile to Samsoun of the ex-Deputy Argyraki. The only alternative seemed to be, as I remarked to his Excellency, for him and his colleague to take up their quarters at Vamos, the seat of Government of Apokorona and Sphakia, and thence to go daily to Fré, the village where the Committee is sitting, an hour's journey towards the mountains. This arrangement did not at all meet the views of Costaki Pasha, both from the discomfort attending the journeys to and fro at this inclement season, and still more because of the sacrifice of dignity it involved; and his Excellency left me with the intention of writing to the Mutessarif of Sphakia to propose that the delegates should meet him at Chrysopege.

It is thus evident that a fresh obstacle is thrown in the way of negotiations. There is besides a growing impression that the mission of Costaki Pasha and his colleague is destined to end in failure, an impression which is itself unfavourable to success, and which is shared, as I gather, by the Commissioners themselves. The course of the war and the attendant excitement in Greece are creating a situation which is proving too strong for that large and respectable party in Crete which was sincerely anxious for a peaceful settlement of their grievances. Feeling themselves unable to stem the growing excitement, I apprehend their policy to be, in negotiating with the Commissioners, to abate none of their demands, which in their entirety the Commissioners on their arrival here, I had no difficulty in perceiving, were not authorized to grant. The delegates will then be able to throw the responsibility of failure on them, and consider themselves justified in advancing larger pretensions. The majority seem to hanker after autonomy, while a considerable party would demand union with Greece. This forecast of events presupposes the encouragement, open or concealed, of the Greeks of the Kingdom. Nevertheless, should to-morrow's steamer bring the news of the conclusion of an armistice as a preliminary to peace, it will have a sobering effect on the Delegates and make them disposed to meet the Commissioners half-way in the choice of a place of meeting. I have myself sent a message suggesting some such compromise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 195.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 10. Political.)
Canea, Crete, January 29, 1878.

My Lord,

SINCE I had the honour of addressing your Lordship, I learn that Costaki Pasha and his colleague, finding that the Committee will not consent to leave their present quarters at Fré, have determined themselves to proceed thither, as the only means of coming to an understanding with them.

The agitation is so great among the Chiefs, particularly those recently come from Greece, who are using every effort to induce the people to rise, that the Committee, to keep abreast with the popular feeling, has resolved to adopt a new programme, which is far in excess of their former demands, and which is said to meet with the hearty concurrence of the elected Delegates.

The following are the cardinal points of the programme:—

1. That the form of Government in Crete be autonomous.
2. That the Chief of the autonomous State be chosen by the people.
3. That the island shall pay an annual tribute to the Porte of 500,000 prs. (5,000 Turkish pounds).
4. That the Constitution thus laid down be guaranteed by the Great Powers.

It is the arrival of so many Chiefs from Greece which is creating embarrassment. These men, before leaving, received considerable sums of money from the Committee in Athens, who hoped by this means to raise an insurrection. Certainly no more potent means could be employed to effect their purpose, and it has required all the efforts of the local Committee to combat their designs. Only last Saturday, the 26th instant, a plan had been concocted to attack Vamos, in Apocorona, which is garrisoned by a force of 1,500 Redif, and the Mutessarif was prepared to abandon his post and come into town. The Vali ordered him to remain, and the troops are entrenching themselves against a

sudden attack. These particulars I have from the Vali himself. The attack was put off in consequence of the non-arrival from Greece of a cargo of cartridges.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 196.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 128.)
St. Petersburgh, February 1, 1878.

My Lord,

ON receipt yesterday of your Lordship's instructions to inquire of Prince Gortchakow whether Her Majesty's Government were authorized to communicate to the Porte the engagement given in his Highness's Memorandum of the 15th instant, viz., that the Russian forces will not occupy Gallipoli if the Turkish regular troops did not concentrate there, I addressed a private note to Prince Gortchakow, of which I have the honour to annex a copy, making the desired inquiry.

His Highness replied in a note, of which a copy is annexed, merely confirming the engagement taken in his Memorandum.

As this was not an answer to my inquiry I addressed a second note to his Excellency, copy of which I annex, explaining the nature of the inquiry I had been instructed to make which his Highness had apparently misunderstood.

Prince Gortchakow replied to my second note in the following words:—

"Oui, pourvu que mon Memorandum soit communiqué dans son texte complet."

I inclose your Lordship a copy of his Highness's note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 196.

Lord A. Loftus to Prince Gortchakow.

St. Pétersbourg, ce $\frac{19}{31}$ Janvier, 1878.

Mon Prince,

JE suis chargé par le Comte de Derby de demander à votre Altesse si le Gouvernement de la Reine est autorisé à donner au Gouvernement du Sultan l'engagement contenu dans le Memorandum que votre Altesse m'a fait parvenir sous la date du $\frac{15}{27}$ du courant, portant que les forces Russes n'occuperont pas les lignes de Bulaïr (Gallipoli) si les troupes régulières Turques ne s'y concentreront pas.

En priant votre Altesse de vouloir bien me mettre à même de répondre à cette question, je profite, &c.

(Signé) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 196.

Prince Gortchakow to Lord A. Loftus.

JE confirme l'engagement contenu dans mon Memorandum du $\frac{15}{27}$ courant, c'est-à-dire, que les forces Russes n'occuperont pas Gallipoli si les troupes régulières Turques ne s'y concentraient pas.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) GORTCHAKOW.

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{19}{31}$ Janvier, 1878.

Inclosure 3 in No. 196.

Lord A. Loftus to Prince Gortchakow.

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{19}{31}$ Janvier, 1878.

Mon Prince,

JE crains que votre Altesse n'a pas bien compris la question que j'étais chargé par Lord Derby de vous soumettre.

Il ne s'agissait pas d'une confirmation de l'engagement, contenu dans votre Memorandum que Lord Derby demandait; mais il voulait savoir si le Gouvernement de la Reine était autorisé à donner connaissance de cet engagement au Gouvernement du Sultan.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 196.

Prince Gortchakow to Lord A. Loftus.

OUI, pourvu que mon Memorandum soit communiqué dans son texte complet.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) GORTCHAKOW.

Le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Janvier*, 1878.

No. 197.

Colonel Siborne to Lord Tenterden.—(Received February 6.)

Thames Ditton, February 4, 1878.

Dear Lord Tenterden,

WITH reference to the subject of my letter No. 5 of the 23rd ultimo, I have received a note from M. Herbette, in which he says:—

"These are of course our personal views, which we have exchanged, and I hope that if your Government is induced to act in concert with mine on these questions, it will make no reference to your having communicated my own ideas to it.

"If there should be a Conference at Rome or elsewhere, I should much like that your Government should suggest to mine to send us both to it with the characters of 'Avocats consultants' to our respective Ambassadors as regards the question of the Danube."

I beg, &c.
(Signed) H. C. SIBORNE.

No. 198.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 95.)
Paris, February 4, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON told me this morning that the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, Comte de Wimpffen, who had just left him, had come to him with a proposal from his Government that a Conference of the European Powers on the Eastern question should be held at Vienna.

M. Waddington went on to say that he had at once agreed to the Conference in principle, and he added that, for his own part, he was quite willing that it should sit at Vienna if the other Powers were agreed upon the choice of that place.

I thought it right to mention to him that Her Majesty's Government fully approved of Vienna as the seat of the Conference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 199.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 96.)
Paris, February 4, 1878.

My Lord,

THIS morning, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I sounded M. Waddington on the question of sending a combined fleet to Constantinople, in case the Russian troops should enter or attempt to enter that capital.

M. Waddington said that he did not think the Russians were likely to advance to Constantinople, that he had no official information on the subject, but that still he did not speak without good reason.

He did not conceive that it would be advisable that France should in any circumstances send a very large fleet to Constantinople, but he thought that if the Russians really went there it would be necessary that some French ships-of-war should present themselves in order to protect French citizens and French interests. He should, he said, in this case be glad that the French squadron should find itself in company with the ships-of-war of other nations, dispatched on a similar mission.

He told me that the German Government had expressed satisfaction on learning that French ships had been sent to the Levant to be at hand in order to protect, in case of need, the persons and property of Europeans.

In conclusion, M. Waddington said that for the moment he could only express his own personal opinions, but that he would bring the matter before his colleagues at a Cabinet Council which would be held on the following day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 200.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 100.)
Paris, February 4, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON told me this evening that he had received intelligence that the Ottoman fleet, the presence of which in the Black Sea was rendered unnecessary by the armistice, had been ordered to set sail for the Piræus, and that it would probably arrive there to-morrow evening, with the object of making an attack upon Athens.

M. Waddington proceeded to say that the danger being thus imminent, he had thought it necessary to send forthwith by telegraph to the French Minister at Athens instructions to address the strongest remonstrances to the Greek Government on the subject of the aggression they had made upon the frontier provinces of Turkey, and to urge them to recall at once the troops they had sent across the frontier.

M. Waddington said that had time admitted he should have been glad to consult the two other guaranteeing Powers before taking this step, but that it had appeared to him that not a moment was to be lost. He had, however, he observed, taken the first opportunity of mentioning what he had done to me and to Prince Orloff, the Russian Ambassador, as the Representatives of those Powers at Paris.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 201.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 102.)
Paris, February 5, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON has told me this afternoon that the Russian Ambassador has officially informed him that Prince Gortchakow objects to the choice of Vienna as the seat of the proposed Conference, and suggests some smaller place, as, for instance, Lausanne, Geneva, Milan, or even Venice.

M. Waddington went on to say to me that the French Government had formally and officially accepted the Conference in principle, and had stated that, for their own part, they had no objection to Vienna as the seat of it. He added that the French Government had no predilection for any particular place, and would readily agree to any choice acceptable to the other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 202.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 103. Very Confidential.)

Paris, February 5, 1878.

My Lord,

AFTER telling me this afternoon that Russia objected to the Conference being held at Vienna, M. Waddington authorized me to inform your Lordship that in his opinion it would be advisable to humour Prince Gortchakow in the matter.

He had, he said, reason to believe that the Prince eagerly desired to preside over the Conference. If his Highness' vanity were gratified in this respect, he might, M. Waddington thought, be more yielding in matters of importance, and at all events his self-love would be enlisted in making the Conference a success.

M. Waddington proceeded to observe that he thought there would be a much better prospect of effecting a satisfactory and durable settlement of the Eastern question if Prince Gortchakow, Count Andrassy, and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, or at any rate Cabinet Ministers, of the other Powers attended the Conference in person. He seemed, however, to take it for granted that Prince Bismarck would not come to it.

As regarded the seat of the Conference, M. Waddington preferred a small place to the capital of any of the Powers represented, because in any of these capitals, except St. Petersburgh, which would of course not be chosen, it would be difficult or impossible that Prince Gortchakow should be the President. He did not appear to like the idea of a place in Italy being chosen.

M. Waddington begged me to remember that he was only throwing out ideas of his own confidentially, and was not expressing the deliberate opinions of the French Government.

I have already transmitted the substance of this despatch to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 203.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 104.)

Paris, February 5, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 96 of yesterday I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Waddington told me this afternoon that his colleagues in the Government entirely agreed in the views he had expressed to me with regard to the necessity of sending a few large French ships of war to Constantinople, if the Russians should enter or attempt to enter that city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 204.

Count Beust to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

Belgrave Square, le 5 Février, 1878.

M. le Comte,

D'ORDRE de mon Gouvernement j'ai l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit.

L'Autriche-Hongrie, en sa qualité de Puissance Signataire des actes internationaux qui ont eu pour object de régler le système politique en Orient, a toujours réservé, en présence de la guerre actuelle, sa part d'influence sur le règlement définitif des conditions de la paix future.

Le Gouvernement Impérial de la Russie, auquel nous avons fait part de ce point de vue, l'a pleinement apprécié.

Aujourd'hui que des préliminaires de paix viennent d'être signés entre la Russie et la Turquie le moment nous semble venu d'établir l'accord de l'Europe sur les modifications qu'il deviendrait nécessaire d'apporter aux Traités susmentionnés.

Le mode le plus apte à amener cette entente nous paraît être la réunion d'une

Conférence des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Paris de 1856 et du Protocole de Londres de 1871. Nous espérons qu'on nous saura gré de prendre l'initiative en cette circonstance.

Je suis donc chargé d'inviter le Cabinet de St. James à vouloir bien participer à une Conférence des Puissances Signataires des actes internationaux sus-mentionnés.

La nature particulièrement amicale des relations réciproques fait espérer au Gouvernement de l'Empereur et Roi que le Gouvernement de la Reine n'aura pas d'objection contre la réunion de la Conférence à Vienne.

Aussitôt que l'acceptation en principe de notre invitation par les Cabinets invités nous sera connue nous nous empresserons de leur proposer le mode et la date de la réunion.

En ayant l'honneur de m'acquitter ainsi des ordres de mon Gouvernement, j'ose prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien me faire connaître sa réponse, que j'espère être conforme à la proposition de mon Gouvernement.

Je profite, &c.
(Signé) BEUST.

No. 205.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, February 5, 1878.

NO answer has yet been received here from St. Petersburgh about the Conference.

Baron Calice tells me that the Russian Government is understood to feel some disinclination to permit Vienna as the place of the meeting, but that Count Andrassy believes their object is to cause as much time as possible to be lost before the Conference can assemble.

He attaches much more importance to its immediate assembly than to the place of meeting.

If Russia objects to Vienna and proposes some town, not the capital of one of the Great Powers, I think Count Andrassy would be likely to assent to it to avoid giving Russia a pretext for delay, though he certainly is anxious that Vienna should be selected.

No. 206.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, February 5, 1878.

THE answer of the Italian Government to Sir A. Paget's note of the 30th was confidentially communicated by the Italian Ambassador to the Austrian Government, by whom it is regarded as evasive, and as recognizing only in principle the points (? contended) for by Her Majesty's Government relating to the modification of the Treaties.

Baron Calice says, however, that, on the whole, the communications with the Italian Government have latterly been more satisfactory, though there is still an evident suspicion at Rome of a disposition on the part of Austria to acquire Bosnia.

His Excellency feels uncertain how far the Italian Government, which declares themselves opposed to an increase of territory by any of the Great Powers, would object to Bessarabian-Moldavia being annexed to Russia; and also, whether they would consider, as an accession of territory, an arrangement which must practically make Bulgaria a Russian province.

No. 207.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, February 5, 1878.

THE Roumanian Agent tells me that his Government have declared to Russia that they will not voluntarily give up Bessarabian Moldavia, or accept a compensation for it in the Dobrudscha.

If Russia is determined to have the province she must take it by force, but it will not be given to her.

No. 208.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February 5, 1878, 5·40 P.M.*

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR has officially informed the French Minister for Foreign Affairs that Prince Gortchakow objects to Vienna as the seat of the Conference, and suggests Lausanne, Geneva, Milan, or Venice.

(Very Confidential.)

French Minister for Foreign Affairs thinks it would be well to humour Prince Gortchakow with regard to the seat of the Conference, and even with regard to the Prince's evident desire to preside in it. He considers it desirable to enlist his Highness's vanity in bringing it to a successful conclusion.

French Minister is also in favour of Ministers for Foreign Affairs attending it in person.

No. 209.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 166.) *Constantinople, February 5, 1878, 5 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

NOTWITHSTANDING armistice Russians are pushing on towards Constantinople. General Strogoff compelled the Turkish troops to evacuate Solivira last night notwithstanding protest of Turkish Commander, the receipt of which was refused. Russian General declared that, according to his orders, it was absolutely necessary that he should occupy Chatalja to-day. Porte is in great alarm and cannot understand proceedings of Russia. It has again made representations to Grand Duke Nicholas, pointing out at the same time that the Servians having destroyed Vranja are marching on Uskub. Although five days have elapsed since signature of bases of peace and the Convention of Armistice, Protocol has not yet reached Porte, which is kept in ignorance of real terms. The conduct of the Russians is inexplicable, and treachery is suspected.

No. 210.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 167.) *Constantinople, February 5, 1878.*

(Telegraphic.)

TELEGRAPH with Europe cut off, except through Neuchey. State of affairs very grave. Russians in force close to the lines of Constantinople and Gallipoli. Protocol of the bases of peace not yet received. Armistice does not stop Russian advance. Porte in great alarm. Austrian Ambassador requests you to inform Count Beust.

No. 211.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 168.) *Constantinople, February 6, 1878.*

(Telegraphic.)

I LEARN that Russian General has insisted as one of the conditions of the armistice that the Chekmedjé lines should be abandoned, and Turks have been compelled to retire quite, thus leaving Constantinople completely undefended. Russians have occupied Tchataldja in considerable force. They are evidently consolidating their advance so as to enormously improve their military position during the armistice.

No. 212.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February 6, 1878.*

IT is impossible to verify reports coming from a great distance, but those which reach me speak of considerable Russian force, more than 100,000 men, in Roumania, and of continuance of preparations in Poland. On the other hand, Austria does not appear to make any preparations in Galicia or Transylvania, two exposed provinces, though she is disappointed with the bases of peace, which touch her interests, and which she must refuse (?) to accept (?).

No. 213.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 6, 1878, 4·20 P.M.*

IN view of approaching Conference, it is necessary that Her Majesty's Government should have full and reliable information as to distribution of Slav and Greek population within limits of proposed Bulgaria. Also as to Mussulmans there and in Thessaly and Epirus. Furnish reports at once and send any persons you think advisable to collect facts.

No. 214.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6, 6·20 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February 6, 1878, 4·40 P.M.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs sends this evening instructions to Ambassador at Athens to tell the Greek Government that if they withdraw all their troops at once from Turkish territory, France will do her best to prevent Turkey taking reprisals; but that if they do not he does not see how other Powers can intervene.

I have communicated to him the substance of your instructions to Mr. Wyndham recorded in your telegram to me of 5·45 P.M. yesterday.

No. 215.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6, 1878, 6·30 P.M.)

(Very Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February 6, 1878, 5·55 P.M.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs authorises me to tell you very confidentially that Count Andrassy has said to the French Ambassador that he holds most strongly to Vienna as the seat of the Conference, and that notwithstanding the rule and precedents, he would rather yield the Presidency to Prince Gorschakow at Vienna than agree to Conference sitting elsewhere.

No. 216.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 6, 1878.*

THE answer of Russian Government to the invitation to a Conference is not now expected here till the arrival of a messenger to the Russian Ambassador in about two days.

Favourable answers have been received from all the other Governments.

It is believed here that Prince Gortchakow wishes to substitute St. Petersburgh for Vienna as the place of meeting, and to (have a) Congress instead of a Conference, which Count Andrassy considers undesirable, as there would be delay and inconvenience in

getting the attendance of the different Ministers for Foreign Affairs, who would be expected to take part in a Congress.

Count Andrassy will not be willing to consent without good reason to St. Petersburgh being selected instead of Vienna.

No. 217.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Ambassadors.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 6, 1878, 6·30 P.M.*

MR. LAYARD telegraphs on the 5th instant, at 10·30 P.M., that the telegraph with Europe is cut off, except through Bombay. State of affairs very grave. Russians in force close to the lines of Constantinople and Gallipoli.

Protocol of the bases of peace not yet received. Armistice does not stop Russian advance. Porte in great alarm.

[To Sir H. Elliot.]

Count Zichy requested, through Mr. Layard, that I should communicate the above to Count Beust, which has been done.

You may do so to Count Andrassy, and ask if he has received any similar intelligence.

[To Lord O. Russell, Lord Lyons, and Sir A. Paget.]

Communicate substance of above telegram to the German, French, and Italian Governments, and ask if they have received any similar intelligence.

[To Lord A. Loftus.]

Endeavour to ascertain whether the reported advance of Russian troops is correct.

No. 218.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 65.) *Foreign Office, February 6, 1878.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 85, of the 30th ultimo, and I approve of the language which you have held to M. Depretis, as therein reported, in regard to the non-recognition by Her Majesty's Government of any arrangements made by the Russian and Turkish Delegates at Kyzanlik which should be calculated to modify European Treaties and affect general and British interests, unless formally agreed to by the Powers parties to the Treaty of Paris.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 219.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 92 a.) *Foreign Office, February 6, 1878.*

Sir,

I HAVE received through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the following information by telegraph, under date of the 5th instant:—

"The Protocol of the bases of peace has not yet been received, and the armistice does not stop the Russian advance, and they are in force close to the lines of Constantinople and Gallipoli.

"The state of affairs is very grave, and the Porte is in great alarm.

"The telegraphic communication with Europe has been cut off except viâ Bombay."

At the request of Count Zichy, conveyed to me by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, the above has been communicated to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at this Court.

Your Excellency will be good enough to make a similar communication to Count

Andrassy and to inquire whether any such intelligence has reached the Austro-Hungarian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 220.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 95. Most Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 6, 1878.*

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and informed me that the arrangements for the Conference were advancing in a satisfactory manner. He had intelligence that the Government of Germany, as well as those of France and Italy, had assented both to the holding of the Conference and to Vienna as the place of meeting. He had a strong hope, therefore, that the objection taken by the Russian Government on the latter point would be removed. He said that Count Andrassy attached great importance to the Conference assembling at Vienna, but he did not explain the reason for this.

Count Beust then proceeded to sound me on a subject as to which he said he had no instructions, namely, the question whether Turkey should be represented at the Conference or not.

I told his Excellency that, as a matter of personal opinion, I thought the Porte had a strong claim to be included among the Powers represented. I was not, however, prepared to give an official answer upon this point, or to speak upon it in the name of my colleagues; but that feeling the extreme importance of cordial co-operation between our two Governments, I should be anxious, before expressing a more decided opinion, to learn what view was taken by Count Andrassy.

I pressed upon Count Beust's notice the importance of obtaining the sympathy and assistance of Italy. I pointed out to him that France would abstain from taking any decided part out of fear, and Germany from calculation. It was probable that these two Powers would maintain a reserved and almost neutral attitude; and under these circumstances, England and Austria being on one side and Russia on the other, it was essential to have the co-operation of the only remaining Great Power.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 221.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 114.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 6, 1878.*

I HAVE received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the following information by telegraph, under date of the 5th instant:—

"The Protocol of the bases of peace has not yet been received, and the armistice does not stop the Russian advance, and they are in force close to the lines of Constantinople and Gallipoli.

"The state of affairs is very grave, and the Porte is in great alarm.

"The telegraphic communication with Europe has been cut off except viâ Bombay."

I have to instruct your Excellency, therefore, to ascertain whether the reported advance of Russian troops is correct.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 222.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 154.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 6, 1878.*

IT is necessary that Her Majesty's Government should, in view of the approaching Conference, be in possession of full and reliable information with regard to the distribution

of the Slav and Greek population within the limits of the proposed Bulgaria. Also as to the Mussulman population in that district and in Thessaly and Epirus.

I have therefore to instruct your Excellency to furnish me at once with a report on these points, and I have to authorize you to send any persons you may think advisable to collect the necessary facts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 223.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 91.) *Foreign Office, February* 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I INFORMED your Excellency by telegraph to-day that I have received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the following information by telegraph under date of the 5th instant.

The Protocol of the Bases of Peace has not yet been received, and the armistice does not stop the Russian advance, and they are in force close to the lines of Constantinople and Gallipoli.

The state of affairs is very grave, and the Porte is in great alarm.

The telegraphic communication with Europe has been cut off, except viâ Bombay.

I at the same time requested your Excellency to communicate to the Government to which you are accredited the substance of the above telegram, and to ascertain whether any similar intelligence has been received by them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 224.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 12.) *Foreign Office, February* 6, 1878.

Sir,

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires has stated to me that if the Great Powers would guarantee the security of the inhabitants of the Greek provinces of Turkey, and the protection of their rights, the Greek Government were disposed to order their troops to withdraw from Turkey.

With reference to this statement I have to inform you that you may assure the Greek Government, that so far as a guarantee may mean that the Powers should use their influence and their utmost endeavours to prevent the occurrence of disturbances and outrages on the population, Her Majesty's Government will certainly do all in their power within the above-mentioned limits to secure the inhabitants of the provinces from lawless violence.

You may add that Her Majesty's Government are also ready, on learning that the Greek troops have been withdrawn, to urge the Porte to countermand hostile measures against Greece.

I have made a communication in this sense to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 225.

The Earl of Derby to Musurus Pasha.†

Foreign Office, February 6, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

AS Her Majesty's Government have been informed that the bases of peace between Turkey and Russia were signed at Adrianople on the 31st ultimo, they presume that there can no longer be any reason for not making them public.

I have, therefore, the honour to request that your Excellency will have the goodness, should you see no objection, to apply to your Government for authority to communicate

* A similar despatch was addressed to Sir A. Paget.
† A similar letter was addressed to Count Schouvaloff.

the full text of the bases of peace to Her Majesty's Government for publication in this country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 226.

The Earl of Derby to M. Gennadius.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Foreign Office, February* 6, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 3rd instant communicating to me a copy of a telegraphic despatch which you have received from the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which are set forth the considerations which have caused the Royal Greek Government to resolve on a provisional occupation by its army of the Greek provinces of Turkey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 227.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 6, 1878, 8·30 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador informs me that Conference arrangements are progressing favourably, and he hopes that Russia will withdraw objections to its meeting at Vienna, to which Count Andrassy attaches great importance.

He sounded me, but, as he said, without instructions, as to whether Turkey should be represented in the Conference. I said in my personal opinion the Porte had strong claim to be included, but that feeling extreme importance of cordial co-operation between two Governments, I wished to learn Count Andrassy's view before giving more decided opinion. I urged the importance of obtaining the co-operation of Italy with England and Austria in view of the reserved attitude of France and Germany.

No. 228.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 6, 1878, 11·5 P.M.

GREEK Chargé d'Affaires has stated to me that, if the Great Powers would guarantee the security of the inhabitants of the Greek provinces of Turkey, and the protection of their rights, Greek Government were disposed to order troops to withdraw from Turkey. You may assure Greek Government that, so far as guarantee may mean that Powers should use their influence and their utmost endeavours to prevent the occurrence of disturbances and outrages on the population, Her Majesty's Government will certainly do all in their power within above-mentioned limits to secure the inhabitants of the provinces from lawless violence.

They are also ready, on learning withdrawal of Greek troops, to urge Porte to countermand hostile measures against Greece.

I have made a communication in this sense to Greek Chargé d'Affaires.

No. 229.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 120.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 24, 1878.

I AM informed that although the Porte will accept the terms of peace forced upon it by Russia, it has made a direct appeal to the Emperor to modify the conditions demanded for Bulgaria, and to apply to that province the system of administrative autonomy recommended at the Conference.

I am assured, on apparently trustworthy authority, that the new semi-independent Bulgarian State to be constituted by Russia is to have a Prince to be named by her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 230.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 121.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 24, 1878.*

A PERSON from the Palace has just communicated to me, most confidentially, the following as the bases of peace proposed by the Grand Duke Nicholas:—

1. The payment of a pecuniary indemnity for the expenses of the war, to be determined hereafter; the east of the Province of Armenia, including Bayazid, Kars, Ardahan, and Batoum, to be held by Russia as a guarantee for it; the fortifications of Erzeroum to be destroyed.
2. The independence of Roumania.
3. Servia to be erected into a Kingdom, with increase of territory.
4. Bulgaria to be formed into a principality, similar to Servia previous to the war.
5. Montenegro to receive additional territory.
6. A settlement of the question of the passage of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles to be come to between the Sultan and the Emperor of Russia.

Such are the bases which I have every reason to believe have been communicated to the Sultan. His Majesty expressed his desire that they should be submitted to the Turkish Parliament for their consideration and approval; but his Ministers succeeded in dissuading him from taking this course, on the ground that they would become known, whilst the Grand Duke had demanded the most absolute secrecy with regard to them, and that it was of the utmost importance not to lose time. Consequently, I am informed, instructions will be sent this afternoon to the Plenipotentiaries to sign the bases of peace proposed by Russia without further delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 231.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 122.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 25, 1878.*

I RECEIVED late yesterday evening your Lordship's telegram, sent from London at 5.30 P.M., informing me that Her Majesty's fleet had received orders to come inside the Dardanelles, and that it would probably be within the Straits this morning. Your Lordship instructed me to state to the Sultan that orders should be sent to the forts not to fire upon Her Majesty's ships, and that directions had been given to the Admiral to go through the Dardanelles whether he was fired upon or not. Your Lordship gave me further clearly to understand that the measure thus taken by Her Majesty's Government involved no departure whatever from their neutral attitude, and I was directed to frame my language accordingly.

At the same time that I received your Lordship's telegram, one reached me from Admiral Hornby to the effect that he had received orders to proceed to Constantinople, and to keep open the passage of the Dardanelles; and that as he was about to sail at 5 P.M. yesterday he requested that a Firman might be sent to the Turkish authorities to allow the fleet to pass, but that his orders were not to wait for the usual permission.

As the matter admitted of no delay, I sent Mr. Sandison at once, in the middle of the night, to the Ministers, who have been sitting for some days in permanent council at the Ministry of War. He was able to see them, and after a long discussion persuaded them of the necessity of advising the Sultan to send the necessary orders for the passage of the fleet through the Dardanelles. They were very reluctant to do so, and it was only the threat contained in your Lordship's telegram, that Her Majesty's ships had received orders to pass through the Straits whether they were fired upon or not, that induced them to yield. Safvet Pasha begged that your Lordship might be earnestly entreated to inform the Russian Government that Turkey had not asked for the presence of the British fleet within the Dardanelles, but that Her Majesty's Government had taken the step without

previous communication with, or the connivance of the Porte, and entirely with a view to the protection of British interests.

Otherwise, his Excellency said, this measure, which amounted to an act of war, might be considered as a breach of faith and a menace on the part of the Turkish Government, which would lead to the breaking off of the negotiations for peace and to the immediate march of a Russian army upon Constantinople. Her Majesty's Government would then probably leave Turkey to bear all the consequences of their own act, for which, however, his Excellency declared, the Porte would hold them responsible.

I telegraphed to your Lordship the answer of the Porte at 4·50 A.M.

I had previously (at 4·30 A.M.) received a note from Said Pasha, urgently requesting me to telegraph to the Admiral, through the British Vice-Consul at Gallipoli (Dardanelles), to stop, if possible, for a while before entering the Straits, until the orders which had been sent to the Turkish authorities for his free passage could be received; as torpedoes had been placed before the forts and some undesirable accident might in consequence occur to Her Majesty's ships. I at once telegraphed to Vice-Consul Malings to inform Admiral Hornby of this communication, if possible, before his entrance into the Dardanelles. I left it, however, to the Admiral to act as he thought right under the circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 232.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 123.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 25, 1878.*

IT would appear from reports received here this morning that, notwithstanding the pledge given by Prince Gortchakow that a Russian force should not advance upon Gallipoli unless Turkish troops were concentrated there, the Russians are still marching on that town.

I will endeavour to ascertain, if possible, the exact number of Turkish troops now stationed in the Gallipoli Peninsula, but I am assured that it is only sufficient for the protection of its inhabitants.

According to a telegram from your Lordship received by me yesterday, the Grand Duke Nicholas had been ordered from St. Petersburgh not to push forward "to the town of Gallipoli." It must be borne in mind that the lines of Bulair, which form the real defence of the Peninsula and of the Dardanelles, are about eight miles distant from the town. The Russians might, therefore, take possession of them, and maintain that in doing so they in no way violated their pledge. This is a matter deserving the serious consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 233.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 124.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 26, 1878.*

SAFVET PASHA has called my attention to the fact that the Russian Government has carefully avoided giving any assurance that a Russian force will not advance upon and occupy the lines of Bulair. His Excellency, consequently, strongly suspects that Russia will take possession of them, so as to have the complete command of Gallipoli and the Dardanelles in view of any objection being raised by England to the terms of peace forced upon Turkey.

I am assured by the Porte that there are only seven battalions, or about 5,000 men, in the Gallipoli Peninsula, and that the reports spread to the contrary are unfounded. Prince Reuss stated to me last night that he believed that troops had been concentrated there, and that they amounted already to 10,000 or 12,000 men. It is not impossible that he may have telegraphed in this sense to St. Petersburgh, and that the Russian Government, acting upon such information, may consider itself no longer bound by the pledge given to that of Her Majesty not to occupy Gallipoli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 234.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 125.) *Constantinople, January 25, 1878.*

My Lord,

I DID not receive your Lordship's telegram superseding the instructions sent to me yesterday at 4·50 P.M., as to the passage of Her Majesty's fleet through the Dardanelles, until 8 o'clock this morning. I had already, as I have informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 122 of to-day, communicated the substance of your Lordship's previous telegram to the Turkish Ministers during the night, as the matter to which it referred was of far too important a nature to admit of delay.

On receipt of your Lordship's subsequent instructions to direct Admiral Hornby not to enter the Straits, but to anchor in Besika Bay, I sent Mr. Sandison at once to inform the Porte of the change in the intentions of Her Majesty's Government in consequence of the information that I had transmitted to your Lordship as to the acceptance by the Turkish Government of the terms of peace demanded by Russia.

I also telegraphed immediately to Admiral Hornby, through the British Vice-Consul at the Dardanelles, to remain at Besika, and I authorized Mr. Maling to hire a steam-tug to meet the Admiral before he reached the entrance of the Straits, if there were no other means of communicating with him. It appeared to me absolutely necessary that this should be done, in order to prevent the occurrence of some untoward event in consequence of the Admiral not being acquainted with the fresh instructions sent to him by Her Majesty's Government.

I regretted to learn subsequently that telegraphic communication with the Dardanelles had been interrupted during the day, and that my telegrams had not been forwarded until 4·30 P.M.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 235.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 126.) *Constantinople, January 25, 1878.*

My Lord,

I AM informed by a Turkish Minister that the Turkish Plenipotentiaries state that when they referred to the Treaty of Paris the Grand Duke Nicholas refused to listen to any mention of it, declaring that Russia did not consider it in force or acknowledge it.

I have also learnt from the same source that it has been secretly arranged that the Sultan is to meet the Emperor Alexander, and that an arrangement will then be come to for opening the Dardanelles to the Russian fleet. The person from whom this information was obtained does not appear to have been certain whether the meeting is to take place in Constantinople, and whether it is meant that the passage of the Straits was to be open to Russian ships of war on this occasion only.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 236.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 127.) *Constantinople, January 26, 1878.*

My Lord,

IT is stated by the Turkish Ministers, and there is every reason to believe the statement to be true, that the Grand Duke Nicholas made it an absolute condition that the terms of peace demanded by Russia should not be communicated textually by the Porte to any of the European Powers until they had been accepted. It is believed that the Turkish Plenipotentiaries were given to understand that a violation of the promise thus exacted would lead to the interruption of the negotiations, and an immediate march of a Russian army upon Constantinople. Certainly the secret has been kept as a secret has rarely before been kept in this country. Although there are, I think, nineteen members of the Council of Ministers, as well as various functionaries, at the Porte who are acquainted with the conditions of peace, they have not transpired

as yet in an authentic form. They have not been made known by the Porte, as far as I am aware, either officially or unofficially, to any foreign representative; I have nevertheless been able to obtain information with regard to them, which appears to be more or less trustworthy, if not quite accurate, and which I have transmitted to your Lordship by telegraph.

I learn upon very good authority that the majority of the Council of Ministers would have rejected the onerous and disastrous terms that have been imposed upon Turkey, had there been the least hope that England would have held out a hand to save the Empire from destruction. I understand that Musurus Pasha was directed to ask your Lordship whether, in the event of the negotiations being broken off, in consequence of the demands of Russia being such that they could not be accepted without ruin to the Empire, the Turkish Government could still look to Her Majesty's Government to prevent a Russian occupation of Constantinople. The answer of the Turkish Ambassador reached the Ministers when assembled to discuss the course they should pursue on receiving from the Plenipotentiaries the terms submitted to them by the Grand Duke Nicholas. It was to the effect that the occupation of the capital depended upon military considerations, and that England could not oppose it. The communication of your Lordship's reply was received with despair, and with exclamations of the utmost indignation against England, by those who had hitherto counselled a policy based upon friendship and alliance with her, and with feelings of triumph by those who have persistently advocated an opposite policy and a direct and intimate understanding with Russia. It was then decided, without further discussion, that the terms demanded by the Grand Duke must be accepted at once, in order to prevent the advance of the enemy upon the capital. Instructions were immediately sent off to the Plenipotentiaries to sign the preliminaries of peace, as submitted to them, in the form, I am told, of an ultimatum.

Safvet Pasha confirmed the account that had thus been given me of what had passed in the Council in almost the following words:—

"Whilst our last ray of hope came from the assurances given by England as to the safety of Constantinople, there arrived a telegram from Musurus Pasha, conveying Lord Derby's remark that the marching of the Russian troops on our capital was a matter which entirely depended upon the necessities of the Russian military operations. Little was required after the receipt of this telegram to drive all the Ministers to despair, and to induce them then and there to accept the disastrous conditions of peace imposed on them by Russia, which we felt sure would have been far more mild had not Turkey placed confidence in all the assurances and encouragement held out to us, as conveyed to the Porte by Musurus Pasha soon after the fall of Plevna."

Although the charges thus made against England by the Turkish Ministers, and, as it would appear by the tone of the Turkish newspapers, by the great majority of the Turkish people, may be quite unfounded, I think it my duty to bring them to the notice of Her Majesty's Government. There can be no doubt that there is the greatest indignation against us. The presumed change of purpose of Her Majesty's Government in countermanding the passage of the Dardanelles by the fleet, which is, of course, known not only to the Turks, but to those to whose interest it is to encourage a policy of hostility and mistrust of England, is attributed to fear, and to the decay of that spirit which once characterized the English people. England can, no doubt, afford to treat with indifference or contempt these natural consequences of disappointed hopes and of international jealousies, although it cannot be otherwise than painful to an Englishman to hear the terms in which his country is now spoken of. I only bring them to your Lordship's notice to prepare Her Majesty's Government for the probable result of this feeling, namely, a complete, although I hope only a temporary, loss of English influence and, if I may venture to use the word, "prestige," which may lead to serious injury to British interests, and to almost insurmountable difficulties in dealing with the numerous questions affecting them, which constantly arise with the Porte. This loss of influence will also, it is greatly to be feared, render it no longer possible for England to contribute, as she formerly did with so much success, to the welfare of the various populations of this country, and to defend and promote the cause of religious liberty. I shall return, with your Lordship's permission, to this subject, which is, I cannot but think, one of supreme importance, on another occasion.

If I am not wrong in my apprehensions as to the consequences of the revulsion of feeling with regard to England in this country, Her Majesty's Government will have to consider very seriously the policy which they will pursue in their relations with the Porte. It will be very difficult in future, I fear, to obtain redress for the grievances

of British subjects, or to enforce our just rights, without having recourse to a very different manner of dealing with the Turkish Government from that which we have hitherto been accustomed to adopt, and which enabled us to maintain for so long a period cordial relations with Turkey. We may find that friendly counsels will no longer be listened to, and that mere threats will be impotent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 237.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 128.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to state, with reference to my despatch No. 116 of the 24th instant, that the Minister of Police has issued an order prohibiting Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks from wearing arms in Constantinople, under the pretence of belonging to the irregular troops. Only the police (zaptiehs), the regular troops, and the militia are in future allowed to carry arms. All other persons are to be disarmed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 238.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 129.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 27, 1878.*

COUNT ZICHY informs me that he made the following communication to Safvet Pasha this morning in pursuance of instructions from Count Andrassy:—

"We had no previous knowledge of conditions proposed by Russia, neither have we wished to be informed of them. Being desirous of avoiding the embarrassing alternative of either, by our objections causing new delays in the conclusion of the armistice so necessary to Turkey, or by our silence and inactivity implying approbation.

"The conclusion of the armistice put an end to these reasons, and I am of opinion that the Porte, not only from regard for the legitimate claims of the other Powers, but also from motives of self-interest, would do well to lose no time in acquainting the other signatory Powers with such of the stipulations as may bring about a modification in the Treaties signed by the Great European Powers, in order that we also at least should be placed as soon as possible in a position to meet these stipulations.

"This would suit the interests of Turkey all the more, if the conditions imposed by Russia are really as hard as your Excellency gave us to understand they would be."

Count Zichy tells me that he endeavoured to obtain further details from Safvet Pasha as to the bases of peace, but was unsuccessful, the Turkish Minister repeating that, after the threat held out by Russia, he could not venture to give them until after the bases and armistice were signed. His Excellency, however, observed to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador that the mention of the Straits was extremely vague, it being only stipulated that a direct agreement on the subject should be come to between the Sultan and the Emperor of Russia.

No information has yet been received from the Turkish Plenipotentiaries as to the signature of the bases of peace and conclusion of the armistice. The Porte is very anxious on this account. It fears that the Grand Duke Nicholas, having secured the assent of Turkey to the terms of peace, is now putting forward conditions for the armistice such as the Plenipotentiaries could hardly accept, and that this is done in order to give time to enable the Russians and their auxiliaries, the Servians and Montenegrins, to overrun as much Turkish territory as possible before a suspension of arms, with a view to the principle of *uti possidetis* being applied to the permanent occupation of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 239.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 130.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 28, 1878.*

I HAVE done my utmost to ascertain the bases of peace submitted by the Grand Duke Nicholas to the Turkish Plenipotentiaries. As I have already informed your Lordship, the greatest secrecy has been maintained by the Turkish Ministers on the subject. They have not yet been communicated to me, nor, as far as I can learn, to any of my colleagues.

But I have received information with respect to them from so trustworthy a source that I can scarcely doubt that the conditions which I telegraphed to your Lordship on the 25th instant are, in the main, correct. I have reason, however, to believe that there are some others with which I am not acquainted. My informant, indeed, admitted that such was the case, but stated that he could not venture to divulge them.

It is also highly probable, considering the source from which I obtained the information, that the Plenipotentiaries have been given to understand that the Prince of the new Bulgarian Principality will be chosen by Russia; that the fortresses to the north of the Balkans will be razed never to be rebuilt; that the eastern half of Armenia, including Bayazid, Kars, Ardahan, and Batoum, will be retained by Russia as a guarantee for the payment of the war indemnity; that the fortifications of Erzeroum are to be demolished; and that a meeting will take place between the Sultan and the Emperor Alexander, when the question of the right of passage by the Russian fleet through the Straits will be discussed and settled.

None of these conditions may, however, be actually specified in the bases submitted in the form of an ultimatum to the Porte.

The terms of peace as demanded by Russia, which I communicated to your Lordship on Friday last, are as follows:—

1. Bulgaria is to be an "autonomous national Principality" with a Christian Prince; its militia is to be composed exclusively of Bulgarian Christians, and no Turkish (Mussulman) troops are to be employed; the limits of the new Principality will be not less than those proposed at the Conference, as including territory inhabited by Bulgarian Christians.

2. Servia is to become an independent Kingdom with an extension of territory.

3. Montenegro is to be also declared independent, with a similar increase of territory.

4. The independence of Roumania is to be acknowledged, and a part of the Dobrudscha is to be given to her, by way of compensation for the return to Russia of the portion of Bessarabia taken from her after the Crimean war.

5. The principle of administrative autonomy is to be applied to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to other provinces of European Turkey, including Epirus and Thessaly.

6. The "quadrilateral" is to be evacuated by the Turkish troops.

7. A war indemnity, the amount of which is to be fixed hereafter, is to be paid in money, or an equivalent is to be given to Russia, the nature of which has not been specified.

8. A certain portion of the Turkish Empire, to be defined hereafter, is to be occupied by Russia militarily by way of a guarantee for the fulfilment of these conditions.

9. Turkey is to come to a separate understanding with Russia as to the right of passage through the Dardanelles and Bosphorus.

These bases agree, on the whole, with those communicated to your Lordship on the 25th instant by the Russian Ambassador, except that certain important particulars, if my information be correct, appear to have been omitted by Count Schouvaloff.

I will now venture to make such remarks as occur to me with respect to each of these conditions. They must be brief and incomplete, as the many points of vast importance raised by the bases of peace proposed by Russia could scarcely be discussed within the limits of a despatch.

1. The proposal respecting a Bulgarian Principality, as communicated to me, agrees with that of which your Lordship was informed by the Russian Ambassador, with this exception, that, according to Count Schouvaloff, Turkish troops may be retained at some points to be fixed hereafter. As I informed your Lordship in my

despatch No. of the instant, I have learnt from a trustworthy source that the demolition of all the Turkish fortresses to the north of the Balkans, and consequently on the Danube, will be insisted upon. In addition, there is reason to suspect that a secret understanding has been come to that the Prince of the new semi-independent State is to be chosen by Russia, and that he is not to be a Turkish subject.

A new Principality, under the name of "Bulgaria," is thus to be formed within the limits of the Turkish Empire, which will resemble Servia in her relations to the Porte previous to the war. The history of the latter State will afford evidence of what may be expected of this new "Bulgaria," constituted under the auspices of Russia. She will become, like Servia, a mere Russian dependency; she will be entirely under the influence and control of Russian agents. Her internal affairs and her foreign policy, which will soon become completely independent of Turkey, will be directed by Russia. She will refuse to recognize the commercial relations of the Porte with other nations, and will claim the right, like Roumania, of entering into separate Commercial Conventions. In any case she will probably substitute a restricted and illiberal commercial system for the one so advantageous to the interests of England, secured to us by our Treaties with Turkey. The Capitulations will be abolished, as in Servia and Roumania, and British subjects, as well as other foreigners, will thus be deprived of many valuable rights and privileges which they now enjoy. Religious persecution will take the place of the toleration hitherto enjoyed by different creeds under Turkish rule. The Mussulmans will gradually be deprived of their lands and driven out of the Principality. Slav and other foreign agents will carry on, under Bulgarian protection, their intrigues and conspiracies in the neighbouring Slav States. Discontent and popular movements will be the result, and will lead to a war of aggression, waged under the mask of brotherly sympathy for some oppressed race. Bulgaria, cut off from the Ægean Sea by a narrow strip of Turkish territory, will naturally require Salonica, at which port ends the main line of railway through the new Principality. Means will, no doubt, then be found to extend Bulgaria to the sea-board, and thus to incorporate the whole of Macedonia into the new State. A Bulgarian port in the Ægean will be practically a Russian port in the Mediterranean. Constantinople, and the portion of Thrace that will be left under the immediate rule of the Sultan, will then be completely cut off by land from the rest of his dominions in Europe, whilst the capital will be at the mercy of Russia. As Count Andrassy has pointed out, the newly-constituted Principality would be without the pecuniary means of establishing an organized Government and administration, or of providing forces to maintain order. A protracted Russian occupation would, therefore, probably be considered indispensable. Such a state of things could not last. Difficulties would spring up with Greece and the neighbouring Greek provinces and populations, which would soon lead to disorders, war, and Russian intervention, which might end in placing "Bulgaria" under more than Russian influence. In fact, there is every reason to believe that this new semi-independent Principality, which would soon either assert its independence or be annexed to Russia, would be a fresh element of disturbance in Europe, and, so far from leading to the settlement of the Eastern question, would render it perhaps even more dangerous to the peace of the world than it has hitherto been. "Bulgaria," constituted according to the limits assigned to it by Russia, would deprive the Sultan of the greater part of his European dominions and of the richest portion of his Empire. It would open the way to Constantinople and the Dardanelles for a Russian army, whenever Russia thought the time come for permanently occupying them. Thus there would exist a constant menace and a perpetual source of alarm to Europe.

2. The independence of Servia would scarcely affect the material interests of the Porte, although it would be another step towards the destruction of the integrity of the Empire. The Principality has been practically independent for many years past. Whether Servia herself would gain by thus being withdrawn from the protection of the Great Powers, and in being left alone between powerful States whose interest it might be, at some future period, to destroy her independence, is for the Servians to consider. Austria has always protested against her withdrawal from the suzerainty of the Porte, fearing the effect that the establishment of an independent Servian Kingdom would have upon her own Servian and Slavonian populations, and the resentment that it would cause in Hungary. Austria is, therefore, more concerned in the Russian proposal for the independence of the Principality than England. But to reward Servia for her perfidy and for her base conduct towards her suzerain, by giving her the territory which she has filched from the Turks, when they were no longer able to defend it, would be to encourage similar unprincipled acts of aggression,

and to give a public sanction to bad faith and to the violation of the most solemn engagements.

3. The expediency of adding some territory in the plains to Montenegro, which might enable the inhabitants of the mountain to provide for their subsistence by the produce of cultivable soil, was recognized by the Conference, and is generally admitted. But to cede to her the territory along the coast of the Adriatic, with harbours which she was able to overrun when Turkey had succumbed to the power of Russia, and had been deprived of the means of resisting, is to encourage and sanction, as in the case of Servia, the most lawless acts of aggression, and to recognize international felony as a principle of public law.

The annexation to Montenegro of a part of Albania deserves very serious consideration, for it may give rise hereafter to further disorders, foreign intervention, and war. This restless little Principality would not remain satisfied without further extension of territory. I have heard, on good authority, that some of the Montenegrin leaders look to Southern Dalmatia as part of Montenegro. It is well known that they have the same views with regard to Herzegovina and a part of Bosnia. Having succeeded in obtaining a part of Albania, they would probably consider themselves entitled to the whole. They would be engaged in perpetual intrigues amongst the neighbouring populations to effect these objects. Montenegro would, consequently, become a serious source of embarrassment to Austria; and the danger to Austria and to Europe would be increased by the fact that the Principality is but a dependency upon Russia, and one of her most ready and useful instruments in pounding her designs and in carrying out her intrigues in Eastern Europe.

The Roman Catholic tribes which are to be handed over to Montenegro will resent her supremacy, and the hatred between two rival creeds may lead to further troubles. The ports she will obtain in the Adriatic will be at the disposal of Russia, and will be used for the purpose of carrying out her designs on what remains of Turkey. It is not surprising that Italy and Austria have hitherto been opposed to the concession to Montenegro of a port on the Adriatic. However, as far as England is concerned, there can be no objection to a recognition of Montenegrin independence and to an increase of territory for the Principality, except that they will furnish new elements of discord and disturbance in the East, and give Russia fresh access by sea to the territories occupied by the Slav race.

4. Roumania has proclaimed her independence, and the Porte is more or less indifferent in the matter. Turkey would no doubt have preferred to see the Principalities formed into a barrier between her and Russia, by being united to Austria. But if Bulgaria is to be virtually an independent State, this reason no longer holds good. As regards Roumania herself the change may not be for ultimate benefit, and some of the wisest and most patriotic Roumanians are opposed to it, as they apprehend that it may lead to the destruction of her liberties. They feel that Russia will never allow the existence of a really independent State between herself and the Slav populations to the south of the Danube. If, therefore, Roumania in any way attempts, either by asserting her independence or otherwise, to thwart the policy and designs of her protector, means will be found to deprive her of it. The seeds of future quarrel between Roumania and Russia appear to have been already sown during this war. The hostility, almost amounting to hatred, of the Roumanians to the occupiers of their territory have been described by Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bucharest. These feelings are not likely to be diminished by the loss of Bessarabia. The portion of the Dobrudscha to be ceded to Roumania will be no adequate compensation. It may be predicted, with some certainty, that before many years are past Russia will find an excuse either for annexing Roumania altogether, or will effect some territorial change which will prevent that State from being an obstacle to her designs and policy as regards Turkey.

The independence of Roumania is naturally a cause of anxiety to Austria in consequence of its effect upon her own Wallachian population. The Wallachian inhabitants of Hungary and Transylvania amount, I believe, to about 1,600,000. It is not impossible that reasons will be found—perhaps have already been found—to prove that they cannot and should not remain separate from their brethren across the Carpathians. The fanciful theories of race now override frontiers and Treaties.

The exclusion of Russia from the command of the entrances to the Danube was considered of sufficient European importance to induce the Powers to deprive her of the southern part of Bessarabia, and to transfer it to the Danubian Principalities, by the Treaty of Paris. The considerations which led Europe to take this step still hold good. They were based upon the interests of Germany and Austria-Hungary as much

as upon those of Turkey. They were so fully admitted at the Congress of Paris after the Crimean war that it is unnecessary to repeat them here.

5. The application of the principle of administrative autonomy to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the other provinces of European Turkey, including Epirus and Thessaly, is defined by Count Schouvaloff in his communication to your Lordship as "guarantees administration to be sufficiently guaranteed to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Similar reforms for other Christian provinces in Europe." The nature of this "administrative autonomy" is yet to be explained; but there can be little doubt that, if carried out according to the meaning Russia attaches to it, it is but a preparatory step to the conversion of these provinces into semi-independent and ultimately free States, or to their annexation to neighbouring States. The new Bulgarian Principality will practically cut off all direct communication by land between Constantinople and the west of Turkey in Europe. It is impossible to believe that under such circumstances any part of it will long remain under even the nominal rule of the Sultan.

The future of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerns Austria more than any other Power. Their independence as separate States, or their absorption into a considerable Slav State, formed out of the ruins of the Ottoman Empire—a State owing its existence to Russia, and virtually a mere Russian dependency—would be a serious danger to Austria. The Dalmatian, and other Austrian Slavonic, populations might, and probably would, be drawn towards it, and the new State would soon find it necessary to its political and commercial interests to extend itself to the Adriatic. On the other hand, the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Austria would alter the relative position of the Slavs to her other populations, and would be opposed and resented by Hungary as dangerous to her freedom and independence. Hungary has been, it appears to me, unjustly charged with a selfish and unreasonable jealousy of the Slavs. It seems to be forgotten that Hungary is the only country in Eastern Europe that has maintained the principles of true liberty, and has possessed and upheld with her blood, free and ancient constitutional institutions. She believes that the Slav race is incapable of understanding or enjoying either. Experience has taught her to fear that if this race, under the influence and direction of Russia, obtains supremacy in the East, her liberties, and her very existence as a free nation, will be in danger, as it will be to the interest of Russia to crush them. It is not, therefore, surprising that she would see with the utmost alarm a large Slav State dependent upon Russia to the south of the Danube, instead of a Power from which she has ever received generous support in defending her nationality and freedom.

An "autonomous administration" must inevitably lead to the annexation to Greece of Thessaly and Epirus. As regards the first-named province, its addition to the Hellenic Kingdom would not produce any serious political consequences; it may, indeed, be desirable. But the limits of the so-called province of Epirus are not, I believe, well defined to the north, and may be made to include a considerable part of Southern Albania. It would then contain a large Mussulman population, which might be a source of much trouble and embarrassment to Greece, and of disorder and bloodshed.

England, and the other European Powers, may, however, view with indifference, if not with satisfaction, the annexation of these two provinces to the Hellenic Kingdom, although it may be premature, and may not produce all the advantages expected from it by the Greeks. But it must not be forgotten that Greece will then find on, or near, her borders a new Slav Principality, which threatens to exclude her from Macedonia, and to cut her off from Thrace and Constantinople, the possession of which is the object of the hopes and aspirations of every Greek. Can it be believed that a restless, active, and ambitious people like the Greeks would patiently submit to be deprived of what they have been taught to consider their legitimate inheritance, the capital and some of the fragments of the Byzantine Empire? A fresh war of races would thus take place. The bitter hatred already existing between Slavs and Greeks, between rival churches as well as between rival creeds, would be increased by political animosities, and by the thirst for conquest. The bloody struggle between Mahomedans and Christians would be replaced by an equally bloody struggle between Christians and Christians. An excuse would again be furnished to Russia to interfere on behalf of her brother Slavs. A war for their delivery from the oppression of the Turks would be succeeded by a war for their protection from the ambitious designs of the Greeks. Such a condition of things would scarcely fail to remove those disorders which, according to Russia, has compelled her to have recourse to an invasion of Turkey, nor would it be the settlement of the Eastern question.

The other Christian provinces in Turkey in Europe which, according to the bases of peace communicated by Count Schouvaloff to your Lordship, are to be guaranteed an "autonomous administration," are not specified, but little will remain of Turkey in Europe after Bosnia, Herzegovina, Epirus, and Thessaly have been detached from it.

6. The complete evacuation of the Quadrilateral was not mentioned by Count Schouvaloff to your Lordship, but Prince Gortchakow may consider that this is fully understood by the condition that no Turkish troops are to remain in the new Principality, except at some points to be determined upon hereafter. The same observation will apply to the demolition of the fortresses on the Danube, which, I understood upon high authority, has been demanded by Russia. Their destruction will permit Russia to send her armies across that river at any time into Bulgaria, and to march upon such part of Turkey in Europe, including Constantinople, as may be left to the Sultan. That such is the object of Russia has been admitted, as your Lordship will remember, by a Russian statesman occupying a high official post. With the Danube and the Balkans practically in the possession of Russia, and Bulgaria her mere dependency, no line of defence will exist for the protection of the capital. Will such a state of things settle the Eastern question, and remove the danger of future war? Will it tend to allay the fears of Europe, or satisfy Russian ambition?

7. That Turkey will be called upon to pay a large indemnity for the expenses of the war in a pecuniary, territorial, or some other form, Her Majesty's Government have been informed by Count Schouvaloff in terms nearly similar to those telegraphed by me to your Lordship.

8. But there is a very important addition to this Article according to the statement that I have received, and the truth of which I see no reason to doubt: the indemnity is to be guaranteed by the military occupation of certain portions of the Empire not yet defined.

Should Turkey, as there is every reason to presume, be unable to pay a money indemnity, the equivalent which is to be substituted will no doubt be territory, and, perhaps, in addition, the Turkish fleet. Where is that territory to be found? Certainly not in Europe. Russia would ask for contaminous territory, which she could hereafter annex, and at once include within her own borders. She could scarcely deprive the Kingdoms of Roumania and Servia, and the new Principality of Bulgaria, her own creations, of a part of their possessions. She could therefore, only take her equivalent from the Asiatic dominions of the Sultan, and the only province that would answer to the required conditions would be Armenia. The person who informed me, in the first instance, that Bayazid, Kars, Ardahan, and Batoum were to be given over to Russia, and that the fortifications of Erzeroum were to be destroyed, was probably justified in making the statement from what the Plenipotentiaries had heard from the Grand Duke Nicholas, although no mention is made by name of these places, or of Armenia, in the bases of peace subsequently communicated to me and to your Lordship by Count Schouvaloff. The Russian Government, knowing the susceptibility of England with regard to Russian territorial annexations in Asia, and fearing the unfavourable impression that might be caused by a direct demand for the cession of Armenia, or any part of it, with its usual diplomatic skill has avoided mentioning that province, whilst obtaining its object by indirect means. I have already ventured to place before your Lordship so frequently my views as to the consequences to England of the annexation of Armenia by Russia, that it is unnecessary for me to repeat them here. Those views have been submitted by your Lordship to the British public by their publication in Parliamentary papers. They have been freely criticized, and their soundness has been called in question. But, after carefully weighing all that has been said and written on the subject, I see no reason to change them.

9. The condition regarding the Dardanelles and Bosphorus has been stated somewhat differently by Count Schouvaloff and my informant. According to the first, "an ulterior understanding" (between whom it is not said) "is to be come to for safeguarding the rights and interests of Russia in the Straits." According to my informant, "Turkey and Russia are to come to a separate understanding" on the subject. Upon authority in which trust should be placed, I have heard that the Sultan and the Emperor of Russia are to settle this question themselves, and that a meeting between the two Sovereigns will take place for the purpose. The agreement on the subject, whenever it may be, is kept very secret, and I have hitherto failed in obtaining precise and satisfactory information with regard to it. There may, therefore,

he grounds for suspecting that it is not one which would be favourable to the interests of other Powers, or which they would willingly accept.

Such are the bases of peace, the acceptance of which, as far as is known, has been demanded by Russia of the Porte. I have informed your Lordship that I have reason to believe that there are other conditions which are kept secret. I learn this from a person who does not deny that he is acquainted with them, and who is in a position to be so. What they may be, and to what they relate, I am unable to say. From a hint that has been dropped to me, one of them may possibly be connected with some proposed territorial concession to Italy; but this is a mere conjecture on my part, which may be utterly without foundation.

I have ventured to point out, as briefly and concisely as the subject will permit, some of the most serious objections which, it appears to me, can and ought to be made to the bases of peace demanded by Russia. To such of them as refer to the probable gradual withdrawal of the new Bulgarian Principality and the "autonomous" provinces from their obligations to the Sultan and to Europe, it may, perhaps, be answered that they can be avoided by arrangements to be entered into between them and the Porte under the guarantee of the Powers, or by international Treaties. But the recent proceedings of Servia, Roumania, and Montenegro have shown that no such Treaties will be binding on similar States, and ample experience warns England not again to guarantee arrangements which, to her own discredit, she is subsequently under the necessity of abandoning. The conduct of Servia has not only been such as to bring infamy upon her name, but as to prove that no obligations, however sacred, no feelings of honour and generosity, and no respect for justice and right, are likely to stand in the way of the greed for territory of these little States.

The bases of peace which have been forced upon Turkey have been framed by Russia with her usual diplomatic skill and foresight. On the face of them, and to those who are ignorant of their real object and import, they may appear fair and moderate. Care has been taken to avoid exciting the suspicions or hostility of England by an avowed annexation of Armenia or any other Turkish territory in Asia. It will be maintained that the word of the Emperor, that he sought no addition of territory by the war, has been kept to the letter. If it be objected that a territorial guarantee for the payment of a pecuniary indemnity can only refer to Armenia, and that as Turkey can never redeem the pledge, that province, or the most important part of it, is virtually annexed to Russia; it will be answered that a victorious belligerent has the right to reimburse himself for the expenses of the war, and, in default of money, to demand an equivalent. And what other equivalent, it will be asked, can be found? Russia has even shown, it will no doubt be said, extraordinary generosity and forbearance in giving Turkey a chance of recovering the occupied territory. Such arguments and assertions are plausible, and will be readily accepted by those who are prepared to give Russia credit for perfect disinterestedness, and for the most humane and Christian of motives, in waging a barbarous and exterminating war. But an English statesman who has to consider and protect the interests of his country, and who has learnt how Russia, under similar pretexts and by similar means, has gradually and persistently extended her influence and her rule in Europe and in Asia, will scarcely be deceived or misled by them. He will know that territory once occupied by her has rarely, if ever, been restored, and that the best part of Armenia having already been formed into a Russian province, with a Russian administration, will never be given back. Some persons may be of opinion that it is desirable that such should be the case, and that the interests of England will not suffer thereby. They may be right, but at any rate let us not endeavour to conceal from ourselves the truth by pretending to believe that Russia is acting in good faith when she wishes us to believe that the occupation of Armenia is only temporary, and will cease on the fulfilment of impossible conditions.

As regards the European provinces of Turkey, the terms of Russia may appear moderate and equitable to those who do not, or will not, see to what they must inevitably lead. They fulfil, it will be said, the object of the Conference and of the war by protecting the Christian populations from Turkish misrule, and by securing to them self-government, liberty, and future prosperity. Russia has, therefore, only carried out the wishes and demands of Europe. England has no direct interest, except as a European Power, in preventing the break-up of the Ottoman Empire, should such be the result. Unhappily, the "balance of power," the destruction of which has been already so fruitful in wars, and is so menacing to the liberties of Europe and to the independence of small States, is now treated as an exploded dogma. England, it is contended, can afford to be indifferent to the possession by Russia of the whole of Turkey in Europe. It is only natural, it is said, that Russia should unite to herself the whole of the Slav race, and the selfish interests of England, whether they be political or commercial, should not be allowed to stand in her way.

But although such reasoning may satisfy some Englishmen and those European Powers that have a direct interest in the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and in promoting the ambitious designs of Russia, Austria-Hungary, who is best able to apprehend the result of that event, detects in the bases of peace a danger to her tranquillity, to her position amongst the nations, and to her national independence, and a deep-laid scheme to establish the influence and dominion of Russia over the whole Slav race. She sees, clearly enough, that whilst their avowed object is to protect the Christians and to ensure to them good government, they are so devised as to transfer the Slav populations from the rule of Turkey to that of Russia. It is on this account that she views some of the Russian demands with the greatest alarm, and is prepared to resist them at almost any cost. In Turkey, Austria-Hungary has always found a peaceful and Treaty-respecting ally. In the new Slav States she will have dangerous, ambitious, and unscrupulous neighbours, by whom the very existence of the Austrian Empire will be menaced, and who will be the mere tools of Russia when the time comes for destroying it.

There is no greater mistake than to suppose that the liberation of the Christian populations of Turkey from the Mahommedan rule, and their erection into independent or semi-independent States, will "settle once for all the Eastern question" and preserve Europe from the dangers which are supposed to arise out of it—dangers which it has been to the interest of Russia to cause and encourage, and which through her unscrupulous intrigues have become so formidable that she has succeeded in persuading Europe to stand aside whilst she has stepped in on the pretence of putting an end to them, but with the real object of carrying out her ambitious designs with the apparent sanction and approval of the other Powers.

This "settlement of the Eastern question" will not put an end to the rivalries and struggles of different races and creeds, nor promote the cause of true liberty and religious toleration. There will be an "Eastern question" under another form, in which the chief actors will be Christians instead of Mussulmans. The consequences may be no less dangerous to the peace and safety of Europe.

The bases of peace which the Porte has been compelled to accept do away with the last remnants of the Treaty of Paris, break up the Ottoman Empire, practically give its European provinces, and probably a part of its Asiatic territory, to Russia, place the whole of the Asiatic dominions of the Sultan under her control and influence, destroy the balance of power, menace the very existence of Austria, and threaten to divide Europe between two great military Empires hostile to the independence and liberties of free States. They are, consequently, disastrous to Turkey, dangerous to Europe, and injurious to the interests of England.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 240.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February 7.*)

(No. 131.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 20, 1878.*

I THOUGHT it desirable to obtain, if possible, some explanation from the Porte with regard to the statement apparently made by Russia to the effect that her forces would have to advance upon Chataldja in consequence of the procrastination of the Turkish Government in agreeing to the bases of peace submitted to its Plenipotentiaries by the Grand Duke Nicholas. I therefore directed Mr. Sandison to speak on the subject to the Grand Vizier or Salvet Pasha. He was able this morning to see his Highness, who made the following statement to him: "The Grand Duke Nicholas having communicated to the Plenipotentiaries in writing the bases of peace proposed by Russia, gave them, at the same time, clearly to understand that his instructions allowed him no authority either to modify or discuss them, and that should the Plenipotentiaries oblige him to refer to St. Petersburgh for fresh instructions, such a step on his part would be highly detrimental to the interests of Turkey. The bases in question were consequently referred to the Porte as they stood. On the 23rd instant, about 2 o'clock P.M., his Highness declared in the most formal and unequivocal terms, "the Council of Ministers sent full powers and categorical orders by telegraph to the Turkish Plenipotentiaries to accept them

in full and to sign them. Since then the Porte has twice telegraphed to the Plenipotentiaries asking them to inform the Government of the result of its last instructions to them, but no answer whatever has yet been received from them."

His Highness concluded by saying that "he could not admit the possibility of any delay or procrastination on the part of the Turkish Plenipotentiaries in the matter."

The delay that has taken place cannot be attributed to interruption in telegraphic communication with Kyzanlik, as a private telegram has been received here from one of the persons attached to the Plenipotentiaries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 241.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 132.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 29, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Maling on the subject of the entrance of Her Majesty's fleet into the Dardanelles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 241.

Vice-Consul Maling to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Dardanelles, January 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to state that your Excellency's cypher message of the 24th, and that of the 25th instant, reached me simultaneously yesterday at 8 A.M.

Thinking it essential to ascertain at once if the Turkish authorities had received the instructions referred to in your Excellency's message, I applied to them to learn if they were informed of the British fleet's arrival at Besika Bay; if they knew anything of its movements, or had any instructions concerning it. In communicating with them I was of course careful to conceal what your Excellency's message acquainted me with. Though the authorities, by means of the military telegraph station at Koumkaleh, can have instant knowledge of any ships arriving on the coast, they replied that they had no instructions relating to, nor any knowledge of the position or movements of the fleet.

Failing to elicit any knowledge of the possible instructions possessed by the authorities, I immediately proceeded down the Straits in a tug-steamer which I had engaged for the purpose, and met the fleet standing in at the entrance. After making known your Excellency's message to the Commander-in-chief, Vice-Admiral Hornby, and acquainting him with the negative information elicited from the Turkish authorities, I received his Excellency's instructions to return to the Dardanelles and accompany Commander Egerton, who, with Her Majesty's ship "Salamis," had been dispatched shortly previous, to make a communication to the military authorities. The result of the interview Commander Egerton and myself had with the authorities was confirmatory of your Excellency's message that full instructions had been sent to them respecting a certain eventuality, and Commander Egerton conveyed the knowledge thereof and some telegrams, which had been handed to him by the head of the telegraph office to the Commander-in-chief.

The fleet in the meantime was coming slowly up the Straits, but when it was within two or three miles of the inner castles it was observed to turn back; Her Majesty's ship "Sultan" only, flying the Commander-in-chief's flag, proceeded on to abreast of the Sultanieh Fort, when she stopped, saluted, and was saluted in return. The flag-ship then turned back and re-joined the fleet, returning to Besika Bay.

The two cypher messages of the same day addressed to me by your Excellency, and conveying instructions to Vice-Admiral Hornby, were received at about half-past 5 P.M., being an hour-and-a-half after the Commander-in-chief had left this neighbourhood. I communicated their contents to his Excellency the same evening through the Admiral's Secretary, who, with Her Majesty's ship "Salamis," remained here for one or two hours after the flag-ship's departure.

The telegraph office at Koumkaleh will be re-opened this evening for the service of the fleet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. MALING.

No. 241*.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 133. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 29, 1878.*

YAKOUB KHAN TOURA, the Kashgar Envoy who was recently in England, has taken a house in Constantinople, and sees a good deal of the Turkish notables and of the Mussulman population of the city. He has, consequently, exceptional means of learning the state of Turkish public opinion. He called upon me two days ago and informed me that there was a great deal of agitation amongst the Mahomedans, and a feeling of hostility against some of the Ministers, especially Mahmoud Damat and Said (the late Secretary of the Sultan), and even against the Sultan himself, which might lead to very serious consequences.

There was reason to fear, he thought, that if the Russians advanced upon Constantinople and attacked it, there would be a popular movement that might lead to great disasters.

The Khan said that the feeling against England was also very bitter, and would become more so if she did nothing to prevent the Russians from occupying Constantinople. I asked him whether, in his opinion, this feeling was only one of passing anger which arose from the Turks having looked to England for assistance in defending their country, and having been disappointed in their hopes; or whether it extended generally to the Mussulmans in other parts of the world, for instance in India, and if so, what the effect of it might be.

The Envoy replied that no doubt the feeling of hostility against England would be removed if she were, even at the last moment, to save the Empire from destruction.

The Turks, he said, feared and hated the Russians; but they had no real animosity against the English, for whom they had hitherto entertained great respect and friendship. If the Turkish rule in Europe were destined to perish, the population of Constantinople would, he was convinced, prefer seeing the flag of England floating over the city to that of any other nation. As regards the Mussulmans in general, the Envoy observed, there could be no doubt that if the Turkish Empire perished, and a great blow was thus dealt against their religion, they would attribute the event in a great measure to England.

But what, the Khan said, could the Mohammedans of India do now? The English are too strong for them under present circumstances. But they will nourish feelings of hatred and revenge against England at the bottom of their hearts, and they will bide their time. That time, he added, may come sooner or later, as the Russians will now have shown to the whole of Asia that they are all powerful, and that no nation can stand against them.

As Yakoub Khan is very friendly to England, and has a wide and intelligent knowledge of Asia, his remarks on this subject may not be undeserving of your Lordship's attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 242.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 134.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 29, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Vice-Consul Maling, Consul-General Fawcett, M. Michalopoulo, and Vice-Consul Willshire, on the subject of refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 242.

Vice-Consul Maling to Mr. Layard.

Dardanelles, January 24, 1878.

Sir,

THE day before yesterday the "Medjidieh," a Turkish transport, landed about 1,000 fugitives, of whom 600 were Christians, at Lampsaki. She brought on 2,000, all Mussulmans, and landed them here. These refugees were all from Bourgas. They are lodged in the town at present.

A French steamer from Dédéagatch landed here yesterday other 400 fugitives, principally Mussulmans and Jews. The same steamer carried forward about 1,500 persons to Constantinople, also taken on board at Dédéagatch. These poor people represent an immense agglomeration of refugees at that place suffering every privation of hunger and cold, and hourly apprehensions of violence from the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks, who have followed in their footsteps. The railway has been working as far as Demotica within the last three or four days, but has not run any train from or to Adrianople since the 16th instant.

Many of the Mussulman residents of Gallipoli have crossed over to Lampsaki, and the Mahommedan villagers of the Thracian Chersonese have quite abandoned their homes and taken refuge on this side of the water. The panic, indeed, has gained this town, where the Mahommedans and Jews generally are making preparations for a hasty flight into the interior.

Many of the fugitives landed here, amongst whom was a considerable number of Circassians, are armed, and no steps have been taken to disarm them.

A strong desire for peace under any conditions is manifested by the Mussulmans. There may be a few exceptions among the officials and the dangerous classes and the ruffianly soldiers of the garrison, who here at least are well fed, and have had no experience of the sufferings of their comrades in the field. But with these exceptions the population, easy and poor, cries out for peace. Its loyalty and devotion has been strained to the breaking point, and it forbodes with agonizing consternation the being bereft of what little is left to it worth living for, if the war be pushed to further extremities. Should immediate peace not arrest the forward movement of the Russian forces and the Circassians and other irregulars be driven out of Europe into Asia before strong and efficient administrations are reorganized in the provinces threatened by such an irruption, the worst consequences are surely to be apprehended by the population deprived of its only defenders, the able-bodied class serving in the regular army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. MALING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 242.

Vice-Consul Maling to Mr. Layard.

Dardanelles, January 24, 1878.

Sir,

REFUGEES continue coming in both from the European and Asiatic provinces. On the other hand, numbers of the resident population, Christian and Jews, are leaving.

The authorities are evacuating as many as possible of the last large arrivals towards the internal parts of the district, but the work of evacuation is very slow, owing to the very limited resources at their disposal.

Considerable numbers of Circassians, of whom very large bodies are reported to be pouring into Gallipoli, have crossed over to Lampsaki into this district. These refugees, as well as others of the same race brought from Dédéagatch, are armed, and the authorities take no heed as to adopting measures for disarming them; indeed the means at their disposal for doing so are, perhaps, inadequate. The police force of the province numbers barely 35 men, and no assistance can be counted on from the utterly undisciplined and insubordinate garrison. On the other hand the authorities seem to have no disposition to put in practice a measure so indispensable for the prevention of outrage, as, notwithstanding the cowed and demoralized public spirit, and its manifest wish for the restoration of peace, they announce the probability of a speedy call for a *levée en masse*, and put it forward as a reason for leaving armed the dangerous classes.

A large transport bound for Port Lagos (Karagatch) is not able to quit the Straits on account of the prevailing southerly wind, which may prove an obstacle to the embarkation of Suleiman Pasha's forces, if that operation has not been completed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. MALING.

Inclosure 3 in No. 242.

Consul-General Fawcett to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, January 28, 1878.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Consular Agent at Panderma reports to me the arrival at that place of about 4,000 Circassian refugees from Roumelia, men, women, and children, most of them in a complete state of destitution.

It is the intention of the Government to settle these Circassian families at Ballikesseri in the interior, but owing to the inclemency of the weather and the want of means of transport, the authorities have been obliged to lodge them temporarily in the mosques, schools, magazines and private houses at Panderma.

The Consular Agent reports also that the local authorities have only eight zaptiehs at their disposal, and that the inhabitants are in great peril of their lives and property unless some prompt measures are adopted by the Government for their protection.

I have the honour to forward a copy of the despatch of the Consular Agent on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HENRY FAWCETT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 242.

Consular-Agent Michalopulo to Consul-General Fawcett.

Panorma, il 26 *Gennaio*, 1878.

Illustrissimo Signore;

ESSENDO obligato di rapportare da tempo a tempo ogni avvenimento successo in questo distretto, perciò oggi prendo la libertà d'esporla come segue.

Oltre di tante assassinarie fatte nei contorni di Panderma dalli Circassi che verino quasi può sortire fuori dal paese per li suoi affari, in questa settimana arrivanno da diverse parti di Rumelia, altri con le loro famiglie ammontando circa 4,000 persone, la più parte nudi, affamati quasi disperati.

Questi ultimi, si dice, che andaranno a Balukasseri, pure in questa stagione è impossibile di viaggiare per mancanza di tutti li mezzi; perciò restaranno qui divisi alle moschee, scode d'ogni nazione, case, magazine, &c.

Questo paese avendo sofferito nel anno 1874 un grande incendio e la populazione ancora resta nelle baracche, perciò questi non trovaranno tutti allogio e li paesani temono da questi per ogni cattive passo, e con questo modo soffriremo tutte certamente essendochè l'autorità locale con otto zaptié soltanto non si vede esser capace di impedire ogni caso che potrebbe succedere.

In simili circonstanze il paese questo se avesse una autorità potente per la quietudine, sarebbe deliberato d'ogni caso pericoloso.

Sono, &c.
(Firmato) A. MICHALOPULO.

Inclosure 5 in No. 242.

Vice-Consul Willshire to Mr. Layard.

Dédéagatch, January 24, 1878.

(Extract.)

ABOUT 10,500 fugitives have already left, 1,500 by the French Fraissinet steamer and 9,000 by the Lloyd steamers, three of which had been freighted by the Turkish Government for the purpose. There are still about 5,500 fugitives here waiting to leave. Another Lloyd steamer has just arrived. Sh will take about 2,500.

The number of fugitives arriving has much diminished to-day, and I hope it will continue decreasing. The Turkish fugitives are really to be pitied; they come here with their women and their children, and have to sleep out in the open air. The fear they have

of the Russians is really extraordinary. As soon as they arrive they sell their horses, carts, and oxen for a trifle to get rid of them, and are most anxious to get on board the steamers. We have had also a great many Circassians, all armed men, whose presence here caused much uneasiness. They refused to leave if they were not all embarked on the same steamer. Our authorities here deserve much praise for the measures they took to ensure public security, and in sending off the Circassians as fast as they could.

I am happy to state that so far the inhabitants of Dédéagatch have been unmolested, and that the conduct of the Turks towards Christians is most friendly. I have observed, though they do not entertain the same feeling towards the Circassians, to whose doings they attribute most of their misfortunes, and many Turks with whom I have conversed have expressed the hope that after the war all the Circassians will be turned out of these parts and sent back to their native country.

No. 243.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 136.) *Constantinople, January 29, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Consul-General Fawcett, inclosing one from the British Vice-Consul at Rodosto, reporting Circassian excesses at that place. On the receipt of a telegram to the same effect from Rodosto, I made immediate representations to the Porte, and was promised that measures should be taken to preserve order and protect the inhabitants.

I subsequently requested Commander Hammond, of Her Majesty's Ship "Torch," to proceed to Rodosto, and to ascertain and report to me as to the truth of the alleged outrages. Captain Hammond telegraphed to me yesterday that there were many Circassians and other fugitives in the town, but that no outrages had been committed; but in consequence of the reported advance of the Russians upon Rodosto, I have desired him to remain there for the present, and to keep me fully informed of what occurs.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 243.

Consul-General Fawcett to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, January 25, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency a copy of a despatch received from M. Dussi, British Vice-Consul at Rodosto, reporting the influx of refugees from the war into Rodosto, and the disorders committed by the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks within the district.

In answer to M. Dussi's despatch I have sent the following telegram: "Reçu votre lettre du 22 courant. Ambassadeur a demandé fortement que le Gouvernement prenne mesures énergiques. Ambassadeur lui même ne peut faire aucune démarche."

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. FAWCETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 243.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Consul-General Fawcett.

Rodosto, le 22 Janvier, 1878.

M. le Consul,

LUNDI matin, 21 courant, notre ville présentait un aspect des plus tristes. Une procession continuelle de réfugiés remplissait tous de terreur et faisait émigrer en masse nos habitants.

Les rues se remplissaient à vue d'œil de Circassiens, soldats, Bashi-Bazouks, et autres gens armés; le Corps Consulaire se réunit pour savoir quelles mesures prendre. Il se porta auprès du Gouverneur, qui avait déjà pris une bonne mesure, celle de faire avertir par le crieur public qu'on ne courait aucun danger. Il fut décidé de mettre la nuit des patrouilles dans les rues, d'empêcher l'entrée à quiconque, de ne pas laisser séjourner les Circassiens et autres.

Toutes ces mesures auraient été très-bonnes, si le Gouverneur aurait pu disposer d'une force armée suffisante pour maintenir le bon ordre. Malheureusement il ne pouvait rien. Aujourd'hui, Mardi, les rues sont encore plus encombrées. Les arrivants augmentent. La panique est plus grande. Tout le marché est fermé. Les autorités manquent de moyens pour faire traverser le canal à tout le monde. La moindre rixe entre Chrétiens et Turcs suffirait pour amener un désastre. C'est dans cette triste position que le Corps Consulaire s'est décidé d'en référer aux Consulats respectifs à Constantinople.

J'ai jugé à propos de vous télégraphier, comme copie incluse, d'autant plus qu'on parle de plusieurs villages Chrétiens pillés dans le district. Notamment, il est venu à ma connaissance, de source positive et digne de confiance, que des Circassiens en plein midi sont entrés dans le village de Hidéh (district de Hairabol), et après avoir mis tous les habitants en fuite, pillèrent ce village.

Des informations de Scutari portent également que 200 Circassiens y pénétrèrent et enlevèrent tout le bétail, disant aux habitants qu'ils seraient revenus pour prendre une somme de . . . . Il serait donc urgent de prendre des mesures énergiques pour que nous n'ayons pas à voir ici des faits aussi regrettables se produire.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) M. DUSSI.

No. 244.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 137.) *Constantinople, January 29, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Sankey, reporting the state of affairs at Kustendje.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 244.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Mr. Layard.

Kustendji, December 27, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE nothing particular to report to your Excellency. General Zimmermann's corps is showing no signs of moving, and I am informed that reinforcements are on their way to him.

The Russians lately laid down 30 torpedoes from the harbour three miles out to sea. We have had very bad weather, and the consequence has been that the said torpedoes, being only linked together by a slender cord, have been separated, and a certain proportion of them have broken loose, and been carried by the strong currents no one knows where. On account of the floating ice the boats between Braila and Tchernavoda have been stopped.

The weather is very severe, and as the troops are poorly supplied with fuel, they have already been suffering from frost-bites and damp.

They do not appear to enforce any sanitary regulations, and the town is in consequence in a filthy and disgusting state, and typhus fever prevalent.

Instead of taking advantage of the open season to allow merchants to inspect goods and provisions which are again becoming very scarce and dear, they have placed obstacles in their way and charged heavy customs dues, so that the expenses of transport and Custom-house between Roumania and this place amount to from 70 to 80 per cent. of the value.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. F. SANKEY.

No. 245.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February 7.*)

(No. 138.) *Constantinople, January 29, 1878.*

My Lord,

THE Grand Vizier stated this morning to Mr. Sandison, that he greatly feared that if the Russians advanced upon Tchataldja, the numbers of fugitives flying for safety to Constantinople would be greatly increased, and that they would cause confusion and a panic in the city. His Highness said that the Porte was taking every possible precautionary measure to preserve order and to maintain tranquillity. But, his Highness added, if theRussians were to force the lines of Bunyouk Tchekmedjé and march upon the capital itself, the Turkish Government could not answer for the consequences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 246.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February 7.*)

(No. 143.) *Constantinople, January 30, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, in original, a despatch I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Gallipoli, giving a diary of events that took place in that town during the week which succeeded the entry of the Russians into Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 246.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Mr. Layard.

Gallipoli, le 21 Janvier, 1878, 10 h. soir.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de vous confirmer ma dépêche télégraphique d'aujourd'hui, dont copie ci-jointe sub No. 2.

Ce matin un grand rassemblement de Turcs, sur le quai du petit port, attira mon attention. Ayant été aux informations j'ai appris que la population Musulmane se préparait à passer en Asie à la suite de la nouvelle de la prise d'Andrinople par les Russes.

Ayant, en même temps, entendu prononcer des menaces contre les populations non-Musulmanes, par quelques mauvais sujets Turcs, et craignant des désordres qui auraient pu se produire en fait désastreux après le départ des femmes et enfants Turcs, le Corps Consulaire s'est réuni, dans l'office de ce Vice-Consulat, dans le but de prendre une décision sur ce qu'il y aurait à faire.

Il a été décidé à l'unanimité que l'on se rendrait chez le Gouvernement pour lui exposer les conséquences fâcheuses qui pourraient résulter de l'émigration des femmes et enfants Turcs, et pour l'engager à faire arrêter cette émigration.

Le Gouvernement venait de réunir en conseil tous les fonctionnaires et les primats Turcs, ainsi que ceux des diverses communautés non-Musulmanes, pour décider sur ce qui devait être fait en présence d'une dépêche télégraphique de son Altesse le Grand Vézir qui donnait avis de la prise d'Andrinople par les Russes, de leur marche sur Gallipoli, et ordonnait en même temps d'opposer une résistance, dans les lignes de défense de Boulaïr, avec la population, et cela jusqu'à l'arrivée des troupes nécessaires.

Le Corps Consulaire a exposé, de la manière la plus claire, que la panique qui s'était emparée de la population Musulmane n'avait pas de raison d'être et qu'il fallait immédiatement exposer, par télégraphe, à son Altesse le Grand Vézir, qu'une population inerme ne pourrait d'aucune manière opposer une résistance à des troupes régulières.

Le Gouverneur était du même avis, mais le Chef des Dervish, Hussun Effendi, et le Taze Emin Effendi, pérorèrent en faveur d'une prompte émigration des familles

Musulmanes qui, suivant eux, deviendraient les victimes de la rage des soldats Russes si la population mâle Musulmane était trouvée par les Russes à la défense des fortifications. Il fût donc décidé, malgré l'opposition du Gouverneur, de faire passer de suite les familles Musulmanes en Asie, mais après que cette décision eût été prise le Chef des Dervish et le Taze déclarèrent que la population mâle Musulmane n'irait se battre, bien entendu, que lorsqu'il y aurait assez de troupes pour pouvoir opposer une résistance sérieuse à l'ennemi.

Le Corps Consulaire fit alors des nouvelles démarches pour arrêter l'émigration, mais sans résultat, puisque les familles Turques arrivaient en masse aux embarcadères, où régnait la plus grande confusion. Heureusement jusqu'à maintenant il n'y a aucun malheur à déplorer. Les populations non-Musulmanes sont sur le qui vive à la suite des menaces prononcées par les quelques mauvais sujets Turcs dont j'ai parlé plus haut.

Ce soir même le Gouverneur me fit appeler, avec l'Agent Consulaire d'Italie, et il nous dit, en nous priant de conserver le secret, que le Caïmacam de Kessan l'informait que la station télégraphique d'Ouzounkupru venait de cesser de répondre et que par conséquent il pensait que les Russes étaient en marche sur Kessan. A la suite de cela il nous priait de lui procurer les moyens de sauver la Caisse du Gouvernement et les archives suivant les ordres qu'il venait de recevoir. J'ai fait appeler alors le Capitaine du bateau rémorqueur Anglais "Hellespont," qui a bien voulu se mettre à la disposition du Gouverneur. En ce moment on embarque.

Avant de quitter le Gouverneur, avec l'Agent Consulaire d'Italie, j'ai obtenu de lui la promesse formelle qu'il ne quitterait la ville qu'à la dernière extrémité et qu'il ne mettrait pas en liberté les brigands et les voleurs, suivant qu'il en avait été conseillé par les autres fonctionnaires qui, à l'exception de deux, l'avaient tous abandonné. Il nous a aussi promis que, en tout cas, avant de partir il ferait appeler le Corps Consulaire et les primats des communautés Rayas pour leur confier la direction des affaires en formant une garde composée de Rayas jusqu'à l'arrivée des Russes, à la rencontre desquels on se rendrait, dès qu'ils paraîtraient dans les environs, pour leur faire la soumission de la ville.

22 *Janvier*, 1878.

Le Corps Consulaire s'est rendu, de très bonne heure, chez le Gouverneur, qui a dit que les Russes avaient occupé Demotica et que, pendant la nuit, 380 artilleurs étaient arrivés des Dardanelles et étaient partis pour les fortifications. Il pria nouvellement le Corps Consulaire de l'aider à conserver la tranquillité en ville, promettant toujours de ne partir qu'à la toute dernière extrémité. Je vous ai ensuite lancé ma dépêche télégraphique, dont copie ci-jointe sub No. 3.

Les populations non-Musulmanes ayant cependant appris que le Gouverneur quitterait la ville se laissèrent emparer de la panique à la suite de la fausse nouvelle que les Turcs avaient incendié Philippopoli avant de partir, ce qu'ils feraient aussi de Gallipoli.

Plusieurs requêtes fûrent adressé au Corps Consulaire qui parvint, dans une certaine mesure, à calmer les esprits et à ramener la tranquillité.

Vers les 2 heures p.m., le Gouverneur informa le Corps Consulaire que Kessan avait cessé de répondre sans donner un avis précis si les Russes y arrivaient. Le Caïmacam était en route pour Gallipoli. Heureusement quelques instants après un certain Emin Aga, membre du Conseil Administratif de Kessan, informait le Gouverneur que le Caïmacam avait quitté la ville sans raison et que lui (Emin) était parvenu à faire rentrer, à leur poste, les employés du télégraphe. Le Gouverneur le pria alors de prendre la direction des affaires à Kessan, agissant de concert avec le Conseil Administratif.

J'ai reçu dans la journée plusieurs lettres des primats des villages des alentours de Gallipoli, qui me priaient de les guider dans la conduite qu'ils avaient à tenir. Je les ai tous conseillés de rester chez eux et tranquilles et que au moment voulu je leur ferais savoir ce qu'il devraient faire.

Vers les 4 heures p.m., arriva le Férik Hussein Pacha des Dardanelles, qui apostropha le Gouverneur, le Juge, et les Primats Turcs pour avoir fait passer les familles en Asie. Il ajouta qu'il n'y avait pas lieu à avoir de la crainte puisque l'on défendrait les positions de Boulaïr, ou, si l'on ne pourrait les défendre, on se rendrait.

Hussein Pacha remercia le Corps Consulaire pour tout ce qu'il avait fait pour conserver la tranquillité publique. Il se laissa aller ensuite à une longue dissertation sur la manière de défense des lignes de Boulaïr et sur la marche très lente que les Russes étaient forcés de faire pour pouvoir conduire à Boulaïr le matériel nécessaire

pour l'attaque. Quoiqué je ne sois pas à même de juger sur les opérations militaires, ses allégations et sa manière de voir me donnèrent la conviction que nous étions en présence d'un homme qui n'avait pas l'aptitude nécessaire pour une sérieuse défense. Je me suis permis de lui soumettre quelques observations sur la marche que la cavalerie legère Russe pourrait faire sur un chemin si facile que celui d'Andrinople à Gallipoli, ajoutant qu'une surprise pourrait bien avoir lieu le lendemain ou dans la nuit; surprise qui aurait pour résultat la prise de possession des fortifications peut-être sans coup férir. Il me répondit par des non-sens impossibles, et pour éviter des confestations j'ai cru devoir taire.

23 *Janvier*, 1878.

J'ai l'honneur de vous confirmer ma dépêche télégraphique de ce jour, dont copie sub No. 4.

J'ai été voir le Gouverneur, dans la nuit, qui a bien voulu m'informer qu'il n'y avait rien de nouveau sur la marche des Russes, si non qu'il y avait lieu de supposer qu'ils marchaient vers Dédéagatch. Le nouveau Caïmacam de Kessan télégraphiait en outre que les Russes n'étaient pas à Ouzounkupru qui avait été lâchement abandonné par le Caïmacam et les employés du télégraphe.

Ils sont arrivés aujourd'hui cinq bataillons, venant de Silistria voie de Constantinople, et vingt-six canons Krupp calibre huit.

Les populations non-Musulmanes semblent être un peu plus tranquilles.

J'ai reçu la dépêche télégraphique que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser aujourd'hui et dont copie ci-jointe. Suivant les instructions contenues dans cette dépêche j'ai envoyé des hommes de confiance à Férédjik, avec ordre d'en faire marcher un sur Kessan, attendu que le Gouverneur n'avait pu envoyer que peu d'hommes et sur lesquels il ne pouvait compter d'une manière sûre. Je leur ai donné l'instruction précise de ne me communiquer que des faits sûrs et de s'abstenir de me télégraphier tout autant qu'il n'y aura rien de nouveau.

24 *Janvier*, 1878.

J'ai l'honneur de vous confirmer ma dépêche de ce jour, dont copie ci-joint sub No. 5.

Mr. Fife est arrivé, hier au soir, et aujourd'hui il a été aux fortifications.

Nous sommes envahis par les Circassiens, qui émigrent de toutes parts. Dans tous les villages qu'ils passent ils pillent. Les Turcs mêmes ne sont pas épargnés. Le Gouverneur a donné des ordres très sévères pour que les objets volés soient rendus, mais les Circassiens s'opposent. Il y a grande panique pour l'arrivée de ces malfaiteurs, car on craint les vols, incendies, et massacres.

Environ 2,000 soldats sont arrivés de Constantinople, et le Gouverneur en gardera une partie en ville pour contenir les Circassiens.

Il arrive de Constantinople une grande quantité de munitions de guerre et provisions de bouche pour les soldats.

25 *Janvier*, 1878.

Mr. Fife est revenu hier des fortifications, et d'aujourd'hui en avant il vous télégraphiera lui directement, par dépêches chiffrées, pour tout ce qui a rapport aux mouvements militaires. Quant à moi je me limiterai à lui donner tous les renseignements que je pourrai recueillir. Il m'a indiqué d'autres points où il faudrait envoyer des hommes de confiance, ce que j'ai fait.

Les Circassiens continuent à arriver. Le Gouverneur a donné ordre de les désarmer. C'est à cette mesure et à celle d'avoir gardé des soldats ici que nous devons d'être échappés à quelque grand malheur, car ces Circassiens avaient déjà commencés à forcer les maisons Turques qui ont été abandonnées par les familles passées en Asie.

Un chef Circassien a dit au Gouverneur, en présence du Corps Consulaire, que lui et ses hommes se feraient tuer plutôt que de sortir de la ville. Nous sommes toujours encombrés, mais peu à peu ils passent en Asie ou font route pour Kilet-Bahar, vis-à-vis les Dardanelles.

Dans les quartiers des Rayas le Gouverneur a disposé plusieurs patrouilles militaires de vingt hommes chacune, et qui sont accompagnées par des primats.

26 *Janvier*, 1878.

Les hommes de Férédjik m'informent avoir été jusqu'à Sefula et ne pas avoir rencontré ni vu un seul Russe.

Ici nous sommes dans la même situation que hier.

27 *Janvier*, 1878.

Nous avons des bruits de paix. Le Gouverneur a reçu ordre de prendre possession de tout le bétail qui appartient aux Circassiens, et de loger ceux-ci en ville. C'est une très mauvaise mesure, dont il pourrait résulter des fâcheuses conséquences. Il valait beaucoup mieux de les faire passer en Asie.

28 *Janvier*, 1878.

On attend aujourd'hui Baker Pacha avec des troupes. Pour les loger on a fait vider 200 maisons Grecques, 50 maisons Arméniennes, et 50 maisons Juives.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) AMIT. ODONI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 246.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Mr. Layard.

(Télégraphique.) *Gallipoli, le* 21 *Janvier*, 1878.

GOUVERNEUR reçut avis que Russes marchent sur Gallipoli, et que artilleurs arrivent des Dardanelles pour défendre fortifications Boulaïr, qui actuellement restent avec 300 soldats et 63 canons. Reçut ordre faire on attendant résistance avec population qui est sans armes. Familles Turques immigrent Asie. Corps Consulaire conseilla Gouverneur empêcher émigration pour éviter désordres éventuels à préjudice général. Turcs insistent émigrer, craignant que par suite défense ordonnée Russes les considèrent comme Bachi-Bouzouks.

Inclosure 3 in No. 246.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Mr. Layard.

(Télégraphique.) *Gallipoli, le* 22 *Janvier*, 1878.

DEPUIS hier communications télégraphiques interrompues avec Ozounkupru et Demotica, avis télégraphiques affirmant occupation Demotica par Russes. Craignant que bientôt aussi Kessan soit coupé, nous laissant ainsi sans communication directe avec capitale. Familles Turques passées Asie; 380 artilleurs arrivés pendant nuit. Malgré qu'on dit attendre flotte et troupes Constantinople et troupes Suléiman Pacha, qui se trouvait hier Ghumurdjina, autorité s'apprête quitter ville. Grande panique s'est emparée populations non-Musulmanes, qui s'adressent Corps Consulaire pour demander assistance.

Inclosure 4 in No. 246.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Mr. Layard.

(Télégraphique.) *Gallipoli, le* 23 *Janvier*, 1878.

HIER arriva des Dardanelles Ferik Hussein Pacha, et aujourd'hui cinq bataillons provenant de Silistria voie de Constantinople. Autorité locale reste. Crois que Russes n'ont pas occupé Ouzounkupru, mais autorité et employés télégraphe ont abandonné leur poste. Occupation Demotica par Russes se confirme, et il paraît qu'ils poussent une pointe sur Dédéagatch. Lignes télégraphiques Kessan et Malgara sont encore libres.

Inclosure 5 in No. 246.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Mr. Layard.

(Télégraphique.) *Gallipoli, le* 24 *Janvier*, 1878.

A RECEPTION votre dépêche d'hier envoya personnes confiance. Aujourd'hui rien de nouveau sur mouvements Russes. Ce matin arrivèrent 2,000 soldats et 26 canons Krupp, calibre 8. Capitaine Fife arrivé hier soir. Toi grande quantité familles Circassiennes qui émigrent, et commettent vols dans tous villages où ils passent.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 247.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 144.) *Constantinople, January 30, 1878.*

My Lord,

THERE is a general impression here that a formidable conspiracy exists against the Sultan and some of his Ministers. How far this impression may be well founded I am unable to say, but I believe that there are sufficient grounds for it to authorize me to mention it officially to your Lordship. According to some persons the object of this conspiracy is to deprive the Sultan of his throne and to replace him by the deposed Sultan Murad, or by his younger brother, Raschid Effendi. According to others it is intended to effect a complete change of dynasty. I have even been assured that the establishment of a Republic is contemplated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I inclose a memorandum with regard to the state of feeling in Constantinople given to me by Dragoman Mavrojeni, who, by my directions, has taken means to obtain trustworthy information upon the subject.

A. H. L.

Inclosure in No. 247.

M. Mavrojeni to Mr. Layard.

LE mécontentement qui règne au sujet du Sultan et de ses Ministres, fait en ce moment le principal sujet de la conversation dans les cercles de la population Musulmane de Stamboul. On persiste à dire que les calamités qui ont tombé sur la Turquie sont dues en grande partie au Souverain et à ses Conseillers. Partout on voudrait détrôner le Sultan, et chasser, si non tuer, ses Ministres!

Aucun propos menaçant n'est tenu contre les Chrétiens dans les réunions.

Les Turcs craignent de faire du mal aux Chrétiens de peur que les Russes, en arrivant à Constantinople, ne fassent de terribles représailles.

La population Musulmane n'a pas pour le moment l'intention de quitter ses foyers; même dans le cas où le Sultan et le Gouvernement quitteraient la capitale. Les Turcs discutent l'éventualité du départ pour Broussa du Sultan, mais disent tout haut qu'il n'a qu'à s'en aller et qu'eux ne bougerons pas!

Ils savent que les Russes en arrivant feront tout leur possible pour provoquer des désordres afin d'aggraver la situation. Ils tâcheront d'être prudents à moins que l'ennemi ne fasse ce qu'il a fait ailleurs en tuant les non-combattants. Les Turcs craignent seulement que les Circassiens, qui affluent en si grand nombre et qui n'ont rien à perdre, ne profitent du tumulte et de la panique pour massacrer et piller comme ils l'ont fait ailleurs.

On prétend que si les Russes arriveront à Tchataldja, on aura recours à l'étendard du Prophète pour exciter l'enthousiasme du peuple et l'obliger à opposer à l'ennemi une dernière et suprême résistance.

On a commencé à enrôler tous les célibataires dans les rangs de l'armée pour les envoyer à Tchataldja.

On cite par centaines les vols et abus commis dans la capitale par les Circassiens, qui conservent toujours leurs armes.

No. 248.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 148.) *Constantinople, January 30, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a further summary of the proceedings during the last week in the Ottoman Chamber of Deputies, accompanied by a report of them taken from the "Turquie" newspaper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 248.

Report of Proceedings in the Ottoman Chamber of Deputies.

THE Chamber was occupied on the 22nd instant with a discussion tending to censure the system of exiling persons obnoxious to the Government without sufficient trial.

During the debate the name of Midhat Pasha was brought up as an instance in point, and Khalil Ghanem, the eloquent member for Syria, severely blamed the act of the exile of the late Grand Vizier as being unconstitutional, and the consequence of an unnecessary proclamation of the state of siege by the Minister of War.

Rassim Beg, who had been deputed by the Chamber to report to them upon the state of the district of Adrianople since the invasion by the Russians, then made a statement to the effect that owing to the cruelties to the Mussulman population, which had hitherto marked the track of the invading army, and to the decision of the military authorities not to defend Adrianople, the population were forced to emigrate to the capital. He drew a dark picture of the sufferings of these poor creatures, and severely blamed the railway organization that obliged them to remain for several days on the road. The Chamber decided to refer this matter to a Committee, and the sitting closed with a vote of thanks to the Sultan for having deigned to accept the post of President of the Refugee Relief Committee.

January 23.

A telegram was received by the Chamber from Bourdour, in Asia Minor, complaining of the conduct of the Governor, accusing him of gross corruption and maladministration.

The two Members for Adrianople spoke in turn, and expressed their indignation at the conduct of the Government in retaining at their posts such incapable and corrupt officials, and complained that two persons who had been notified to the Government as totally unfit for their post last year were still in office, notwithstanding the promise given by the Minister that they should be immediately dismissed. The Chamber and its debates, they said, were a mere farce if their urgent recommendations were to be systematically disregarded.

After an animated discussion, which elicited opinions in favour of some officials, and severely censured others, it was decided formally to ask the Porte why the persons to be dismissed had been retained in office.

Daritchon Effendi, the Member for Janina, then called the attention of the Chamber to the financial condition of the Empire, and as the Budget was soon to be laid before it, proposed that four points should be especially considered while it was under discussion:—

1. The imperative necessity of arresting the depreciation of the paper currency.
2. The sale of State domains, which if wisely carried out would enormously increase the revenue.
3. The collection of the tithes. The present system being defective, and causing a great loss to the State.
4. The payment of arrears due to the Treasury by Governors-General and other high officials during years past. If necessary, this payment might be accepted in paper currency.

The Chamber approved of the excellent proposals of the speaker, and decided to refer them to the Financial Committee.

The sitting was closed by a conversation upon the sales of prizes effected by the Naval Prize Courts, and a long discourse by the Deputy for Aleppo on the means adopted by the Government to insure the public tranquillity of the capital.

January 24.

The sitting of this day was one of the most remarkable that has yet taken place, on account of the discussion of the law of property which arose, and which led to an expression of opinion on the part of the Chamber as to the immutability and authority of the sacred law as given in the Koran (the Cheri).

The debate was brought on by Mehemet Ali Bey, Member of Janina, who read a speech generally deploring the ignorance of the population, and the absence of all march of civilization throughout the land. He explained in detail the different laws which regulate the tenure of real property, and showed up the difficulties which

they threw in the way of all transfer of land, and the onerous burdens they impose upon landowners, thus gradually increasing the real property held by the religious communities, which was forfeited to them on account of the non-execution of engagements which were next to impossible to fulfil. He proposed that the law should be simplified and equally applicable to Mussulmans and Christians.

There arose a storm of disapprobation from most of the religious members. The orator's speech was denounced as an attempt to upset the sacred law, and several "Hodjas," one after the other, maintained its absolute inviolability and superior authority.

Order having been restored by the President, Khalil Ghanen, the Syrian deputy, delivered a very excellent speech, in which he, as a Christian, touched but slightly on the question of the Cheri, but gave his opinion freely to the Chamber as to the amount of public education actually existing in the country, and proving that as long as the laws were kept in their present groove, no real progress towards civilization could be expected.

He concluded by assuring his audience that the lamentably undeveloped state of the country had flowed from this cause alone, and that if surrounding nations cast an envious glance upon Turkey, with a view to changing her maladministration for a better one of their own, the present system of law and education was alone to blame, and he solemnly adjoured them to listen, by every means in their power, a reform in this direction.

The debate grew very warm, and members spoke somewhat hastily against the interference too often exercised by foreign Consuls and their Dragomans in the Ottoman Law Courts, concluding with a vote to which the Chamber, by a great majority, accepted the conclusions of the original speaker, reserving, however, anything that might prove prejudicial to the exercise of the sacred law.

The Syrian Member, Khalil Ghanen, subsequently signified his approval of the speech, which had been made on a former occasion by Cadri Bey, deputy for Aleppo; and while commenting upon his eulogy of the officers of the army, bade the Chamber remember that a military education did not always imply an honest soldier, for was not Marshall Bazaine, who betrayed his trust and his country, one of the most distinguished members of the French Military School? The speaker was warmly applauded as he resumed his seat.

January 26.

Several telegrams were received by the Chamber from various parts of the Empire, proffering complaints against Government officials, and accusing them of extortion, &c.

After some discussion a few of the more urgent of these were referred to Committees; but several members suggest that many are dictated by personal interests rather than by a desire to promote good government.

When all were read, Bedran Effendi, the Deputy for Syria, spoke at some length upon the particular grievances of his province, contrasting the honours accorded to officials in others with the lack of them in the case of Syria. This being, however, a forbidden subject, he was speedily called to order by the President, and forbidden to continue.

The Deputy for Rodosto then gave an account of the disorder and disturbances which had affected his town on account of the arrival of a large number of Circassians, whom the Government was unable to transfer to Asia as they arrived; and he demanded that they should be at once enrolled in some marching regiments.

The excesses of the Circassians were also denounced by other members; and the question of their punishment was referred to the Committees.

January 28.

Several members raised a question as to the payment of a telegraph director in gold currency, whereas the other directors received their salaries in paper.

The Member for Milyboa, Tafsaki Effendi, then delivered a speech, remarkable for its elocution of style and its eloquence of language in defence of the officials of the Government who had been subjected of late to many accusations. He maintained that they had no rights to fall back upon; that no justice was not equally distributed, it was folly to demand that those who governed it should be blameless. He demanded, in conclusion, that any law in preparation, with regard to the duties of these persons, should also define their rights and legal status. The question was then referred to the Committee.

A debate then took place on the collection of tithes, and, among various suggestions put forward by the Chamber, the one which appeared to meet with most favour was one of Nahael Effendi, of Beyrout, who moved the abolition of the tithe and the imposition of a land-tax. The law in question, being still under the consideration of the Porte, and not yet submitted to the Chamber, it was settled to inform the Porte of the present proposition.

In the present uncertain state of affairs, however, further discussion of the project was considered inopportune.

A protest was then entered by several members against the further employment by the Government of persons who have been discovered to have pillaged the army stores and horses in Armenia. The Member for Erzeroum drew a vivid picture of the state of things that had been brought about by the corruption and robbery of those persons—Government contractors—and concluded by moving that the Governor of Bourdour, who had been guilty of such murders, should be at least provisionally suspended and tried.

At the close of the sitting Mina Effendi, Deputy for Smyrna, brought before the Chamber the very serious massacre of Christians which had taken place near Bourgas, and gave a harrowing description of the scene, which he said was due to the liberty which the Government had given to the Albanian troops to take charge of the village in question.

Being refused payment of 2,000*l.* Turkish by the population—as a reward for their protection—they turned upon the inhabitants and massacred two-thirds of them, accompanying their butchery with horrible deeds of violence.

The Chamber listened to the narration with the deepest emotion, and moved that urgent measures should be taken to trace and punish the delinquents.

No. 249.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 7.)

(No. 132.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 2, 1878.

IN the course of conversation this morning with Prince Gortchakow I alluded to a telegraphic correspondence which had lately taken place between the Emperor and the Sultan, and observed that certain organs of the press had reported that in the Emperor's reply to the Sultan an unfriendly reluctance had been made to England. To correct this false statement Prince Gortchakow communicated to me the answer of the Emperor, and was anxious that it should be known by your Lordship.

The Sultan in his telegram had informed His Majesty that as he had accepted the bases for peace proposed by the Grand Duke Nicholas, he appealed to His Majesty in the name of humanity to order an immediate suspension of hostilities.

The Emperor's telegram in reply was as follows:—

"Je n'ai pas jusqu'à présent la nouvelle que les Plénipotentiaires de votre Majesté aient reçu au Quartier-Général votre acceptation des bases proposés pour la conclusion de l'armistice.

"Votre Majesté peut être persuadée que je partage sincèrement son désir de paix, mais il me faut, je dirai mieux, il nous faut, une paix durable et solide."

Prince Gortchakow at the same time referred to the answer which the Emperor had returned to a telegram from Her Majesty the Queen, observing that it had been likewise represented by the press in a false light.

His Highness stated that he quite understood that out of delicacy it had not been made public, but he communicated to me the text of it, and said there was no objection to its publication if it should be thought desirable to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 250.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 47.) *Athens, January 25, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Coumoundouros, the President of the Council of Ministers, in a speech which he made yesterday in the Chamber of Deputies, declared that the policy of his Government was "the active and effective protection of Hellenism and of our prostrate and oppressed brethren." I have also to report to your Lordship that a Bill has been presented to the Chamber to empower the Government to make requisitions for horses and means of transport in view of military operations, and further that the Ottoman Minister at this Court fears that hostilities may break out in a few days.

I venture at the same time to ask your Lordship whether Her Majesty's Government will authorize me to hold stronger language than I have hitherto held with a view of endeavouring to prevent the Greek Government from embarking in hostilities against Turkey?

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 251.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 49. Confidential.) *Athens, January 26, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 47 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to state that the aspect of affairs appeared to me to be so very serious that I ventured to ask your Lordship whether Her Majesty's Government would authorize me to hold stronger language to the Greek Government than I had hitherto held with a view of endeavouring to prevent Greece from embarking in hostilities against Turkey, as I thought that renewed instructions from your Lordship might produce some effect upon the King and his Ministers, who appear bent upon war.

M. Coumoundoures' statement in the Chamber of Deputies on the 24th instant—a full report of which I have given to your Lordship in a despatch marked No. 48 which I forward to-day by post—was considered as a declaration that the Government intended at once entering upon a campaign, especially as that declaration was immediately followed by the presentation of a Bill to empower the military authorities to take exceptional measures for providing the army with means of transport, and by a Bill for the enrolment of the National Guard.

The Turkish Minister, moreover, whom I saw yesterday, was most anxious as to the attitude of Greece, and considered his almost immediate departure from Athens as highly probable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 252.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 52.) *Athens, January 27, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a severe blow was given yesterday to the aspirations of the Greeks by a report which reached Athens that peace had been agreed upon, and disturbances arose in which some casualties are said to have occurred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 253.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 54.) *Athens, January 28, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to the telegram which I had the honour to address to your Lordship yesterday, I have to report to your Lordship that demonstrations were attempted yesterday in favour of war and against the King's late advisers, but were prevented by the military; that some shots were exchanged, and that some casualties occurred.

In view of further disturbances, troops are to-day under arms.

I hear that at Patras and Syra demonstrations have taken place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 254.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 55.) *Athens, January 28, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 50, 52, and 54 of the 26th, 27th and 28th instants respectively, I have the honour to state that news that peace was about to be signed, which was announced on the 26th instant in Athens by telegrams from various places, caused much popular excitement, and, at the same time, created much depression, as the impression produced was that the hopes for the present of the territorial aggrandisement of Greece must be abandoned, and that the aspirations of Hellenism had received a check. The streets soon became filled with an excited crowd, speeches of a violent character against the Ministers of the late Coalition Government, interrupted, it is said, by cries of "Death to the Traitors," were made, in which they were accused of having ruined and betrayed the country. The crowd proceeded to the Palace and called for the King, raising also cries for war. After a time their Majesties, accompanied by the Duke of Sparta, appeared on a balcony of the Palace, and His Majesty spoke a few words to the people, in which he is reported to have told them that he loved Greece quite as much as they did, that prudence was necessary, and that he recommended them to observe an orderly demeanour. Leaving the Palace the crowd proceeded to the houses of MM. Coumoundouros, Tricoupi, Zaimis, Deligeorges, and Delyanni, who had all been members of the late Cabinet; stones were thrown, windows and furniture in their houses broken; the gendarmes charged the crowd, and were pelted with stones; shots were fired; and from M. Coumoundouros' house some of the servants fired, and three or four persons were wounded, two of whom are said to have since died.

I am glad to say that, in the newspaper reports of the speeches made to the crowd on the 26th instant, I do not find a single word of abuse of His Majesty the King or of the Royal Family; the exasperation of the people seems to have been entirely directed against His Majesty's late Ministers.

In my despatch No. 51, Confidential, of the 24th instant, I mentioned to your Lordship that M. Deligeorges and some members of the late Cabinet resigned because they said that the King had given orders for the movement of troops without consulting them, and that M. Deligeorges had declined to rejoin the Cabinet unless His Majesty would act in accordance with the Constitution. I am inclined, my Lord, to receive this pretext for resignation on the part of Ministers with extreme caution. It would, I think, have been more patriotic on their part if they had remained united at a critical moment to share in common the responsibility of the situation in which they had all co-operated to place the country.

I regret to say that disturbances occurred again yesterday afternoon. Attempts were made at further demonstrations in favour of war and against the Ministers of the late Cabinet; but the crowd was met at all points by bodies of troops and dispersed; and on the road leading into Athens from the Piræus, and also near to M. Coumoundouros' house, the people and the troops came into collision, and some persons were shot dead, and others wounded.

I am told that all the houses of the late Ministers were provided with strong guards; and I called on M. Tricoupi, and found his house filled with armed men to protect him against the violence of the people.

The troops in Athens, and some sailors ordered up from the Piræus, have been under arms to-day; but I am happy to say that there has been no repetition of the scenes which took place yesterday and the day before.

At a sitting of the Chamber of Deputies this afternoon, the action of the Government in suppressing the disturbances of the two previous days was approved by a majority of 91 to 6.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 255.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 57. Confidential.)
Athens, January 28, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Delyanni, Minister for Foreign Affairs, informed me to-day that a telegram had reached him from M. Rangabé, Greek Minister at Berlin, to the effect that difficulties had arisen as to the conclusion of peace.

This news may tend to incite the Greek Government to war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 256.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 58. Confidential.)
Athens, January 28, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 57 of to-day's date, in which I have reported to your Lordship that M. Delyanni, Minister for Foreign Affairs, had to-day informed me that a telegram had reached him from M. Rangabé, the Greek Minister at Berlin, to the effect that difficulties had arisen as to the conclusion of peace, and in which I ventured to express to your Lordship the opinion that this news might incite the Government to war, I have the honour to state that I mentioned the circumstance to Photiades Bey, the Turkish Minister, and that he told me that he had understood that it was a telegram from Berlin which had the other day decided His Majesty upon starting for Lamia, a project which was given up on the 26th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 257.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 60.)
Athens, January 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that bands of volunteers are said to be continually leaving this country for the Province of Thessaly, in order to foment disturbances there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 258.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 61.)
Athens, January 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have received information that bands of volunteers are continually leaving Greece for Thessaly in order to

promote and encourage an insurrectionary movement on the part of the Christians in that province. One of these bands is said to have left under the orders of a M. Soutzo, a son of General Soutzo, who is command of the troops in continental Greece, and who is a civil engineer, while another is stated to have left under the leadership of M. Basthekis, who, I am told, is an officer in the gendarmerie.

As the Greek Government favours these incursions into Turkish territory, it would seem that they intend to repeat the policy adopted by Greece in 1854.

There was a sitting of the Chamber yesterday afternoon with closed doors; but it has transpired that the propriety of moving a force into the provinces bordering upon Turkey, with a philanthropic motive, and for the purpose of keeping order, was discussed, but that no decision was arrived at. Another sitting is to take place to-day, and, from what I hear, I am afraid that the War Party will have the majority, the members opposed to war being, it is said, afraid to express their opinions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 259.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 62.)
Athens, January 30, 1878.

My Lord,

ON the 27th and 28th instant, the first date being the day after one of the two demonstrations against the late Ministers and in favour of war, on which I have reported in my despatch No. 55 of the 28th instant, two articles were published in the "Journal des Débats," the organ of M. Deligeorges, who was Minister of Finance in the late Coalition Government. They are said to have been written by M. Deligeorges himself, and have attracted a great deal of notice in Athens. These articles are evidently written in justification of the opinion which M. Deligeorges appears to have held during his tenure of office that it was not expedient for Greece to go to war single-handed against Turkey, and of his having resigned office.

The articles in question, after pointing out the great difficulties which Russia has had to contend with in Asia Minor and in Europe in her contest with Turkey and the consequent impossibility of Greece acting alone, state that the Greek Government made overtures for an alliance, that they applied for ships to protect their coasts, which they seem to have been willing to purchase, and that they also asked that in the event of Greece taking up arms, and an armistice or peace being concluded, Greece should be included in the armistice or taken into consideration in the negotiations for peace, but that all these overtures had been rejected. Russia, I am assured upon good authority, is the Power alluded to in these articles, and with whom Greece endeavoured to form an alliance but failed.

The writer goes on to say: "What has happened which can give rise to a sentiment of regret on the part of the Greek nation for not having long since embarked in 'an enthusiastic war,' is it the victories of the Russians? but it has been proved at length that these victories were for herself and not for Hellenism. Russia, as regards sympathetic sentiments, has not shown herself more indulgent than England. England has told us to do nothing, while Russia has told us hope for nothing. There exists a diplomatic document which, when read, causes laughter. 'Rise,' said a certain Power lately, 'for it is impossible that my opponent in Eastern policy will not help you out of jealousy of me.' This Power engaged us to expose ourselves to danger, unblushingly telling us that she would not assist us but that her rival would."

The effect of these revelations, which I am assured have received no contradiction, must be to disabuse the Greeks of all illusions in which they may have indulged of obtaining assistance from Russia, they will strengthen their belief that Russia is only working for her own ends, that those ends are not the amelioration of the position of all the Christians in Turkey, but only of those who may serve her interests, and that she is anxious to do nothing for another race which may prove an obstruction to the development of the Slav element.

The Greek Government, I am told, knew of the refusal of Russia to assist them a month ago, and it is a matter of surprise to some persons that M. Deligeorges did not resign then; it accounts, however, for the third condition as to the Government agreeing not to take any action in the present crisis until they knew whether an

armistice had been concluded, which I mentioned to your Lordship in my despatch No. 43 of the 24th instant, for had they rushed into war with Turkey and an armistice had been concluded immediately afterwards to which Greece was not included, she might have found herself exposed to annihilation under the full weight of the Turkish forces free to act against her alone.

I had the honour to report, in my despatches Nos. 268, 275, and 280 of the 17th and 31st October and 6th December, 1877, a report that Greece was endeavouring to obtain certain promises and assistance from Russia, but that she had failed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 260.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 112.)
Paris, February 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I TOLD M. Waddington this afternoon that your Lordship had instructed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens to join in the representations which the French Minister was directed to make to the Greek Government with regard to their invasion of Turkish territory.

I said further to M. Waddington that your Lordship had authorized Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to repeat the assurance before given that when the time came for the settlement of the questions arising out of the Russo-Turkish war, Her Majesty's Government would use their best influence to secure for the Hellenic populations in Turkey any administrative reforms which might be granted to Christian populations of any other race.

M. Waddington told me that he had been informed that the Greek Government had stopped the further advance of their troops in Thessaly.

He added that he had determined to send to the French Minister this evening, by telegraph, orders to insist upon the Greek Government's withdrawing at once all these forces from Turkish territory, and to say to them that if they did this the influence of France would be exerted to prevent Turkey taking reprisals, but that until this was done there could be no justification for the intervention of a third Power between Greece and the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 261.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 113. Very Confidential.)
Paris, February 6, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON told me this afternoon that reflection had confirmed him in his opinion that it would be well to gratify Prince Gortchakow's desire to preside in the Conference, and that it would be advisable that the several Ministers for Foreign Affairs should attend it in person.

He asked me to inform your Lordship very confidentially that, in a conversation with the French Ambassador, Count Andrassy had manifested a strong determination to insist upon the Conference sitting at Vienna, and had even gone so far as to say that rather than agree to its assembling at any other place he would, in defiance of rule and precedent, waive his own claim and allow Prince Gortchakow to preside at Vienna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 262.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 114.)
Paris, February 6, 1878.

My Lord,

THIS afternoon, in pursuance of the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 60 of the 28th ultimo, I told M. Callimaki Catargi that if he should present himself in London, he would be received in the same manner as Prince Jon Ghika had been received on the occasion of his visiting England in 1876, charged with certain commercial negotiations. I added that of course M. Catargi would understand that Her Majesty's Government could not accord him any diplomatic position.

M. Catargi answered that it had not been at all his purpose to lay claim to a diplomatic position in London; that all he wished was to be allowed to act as the mouth-piece of his Government.

He did not appear to intend to go to England at this moment.

On the other hand he told me that M. Jon Ghika was to set out for London this evening, but that he had no mission, official or unofficial, from the Roumanian Government. He thus confirmed the statement made to me by M. Ghika himself, which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 97 of the day before yesterday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 263.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 115. Confidential.)
Paris, February 6, 1878.

My Lord,

M. CALLIMAKI CATARGI showed me this afternoon the decypher of a telegram which he had just received from his Government, and allowed me to take a copy of it.

I have the honour to transmit a copy to your Lordship herewith.

You will perceive that General Ignatiew has formally demanded of the Roumanian Government the retrocession of their Bessarabian province up to the Kilia branch of the Danube, and has offered them in return the Dobroudscha and the Delta of the Danube.

Your Lordship will see also that the Roumanian Government have declared that the question is one eminently of European interest, which must be decided by all the Powers by whom the territory was conferred upon them.

M. Callimaki Catargi spoke with great bitterness of the conduct of the Russian Government. He said that possession of the territory offered in compensation would be a positive injury to Roumania: that if Russia once got to the Kilia bank of the Danube, she would find the means of making all traffic pass through that branch, if not of impeding traffic on the river altogether, as she had done before, and that this would be ruin to what would be left of his country.

Nor, he added, did the designs of Russia stop here. A Russian Company, which was no doubt a mere screen for the Russian Government itself, was endeavouring to obtain possession by purchase of the great Roumanian Railway. For his own part, he believed that the sale of the Railway, without the consent of the Roumanian Government, would be illegal; but what might not Roumania have to submit to under Russian pressure?

M. Catargi concluded by asking me whether I thought England would come to the help of Roumania in her present utmost need.

I said that I could not, of course, pretend to say beforehand what determination Her Majesty's Government would come to on this or other points, which would, in all probability, be brought before the intended Conference of the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 263.

M. Cogalniceano to M. Callinaki Catargi.

(Télégraphique.)
(Confidentielle.)

GENERAL IGNATIEW arrivé a remis à votre Prince lettre Empereur et à moi lettre Gortchakow. Par ces lettres Empereur et son Chancellier nous informent que Ignatiow est autorisé à vous entretenir sur plusieurs questions concernant Roumanie. Envoyé Russe s'est expliqué assez clairement, il nous a posé carrément question rétrocession Bessarabie jusqu'au bras de Kilia, en nous proposant en compensation Dobrudja et bouches du Danube. Notre Prince et Gouvernement ont répondu que nous ne saurions accéder à rétrocession d'une contrée qui nous a été rendue par Puissances, en égard à nos droits *ab antiquo*, et qu'il appartient à ces mêmes Puissances à se prononcer sur une question que nous considérons non seulement comme rationale mais aussi comme éminemment Européenne. Impression que cette demande a produite est immense, et ce n'est pas la Roumanie qui perd le plus même étant forcée de baisser la tête.

No. 264.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received February 7.)

Admiralty, February 6, 1878.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Earl of Derby, copy of a letter from the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station, dated 26th ultimo, together with copies of its inclosures, reporting the proceedings of the squadron under his orders at the entrance to the Dardanelles, and its return to Besika Bay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 264.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

"*Sultan*," *in Besika Bay, January* 25, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that in obedience to your telegraphic orders of the 23rd instant (received by me at Vourlah Bay at 11 h. a.m. yesterday) I weighed at 5 p.m. with the squadron named in the margin* and proceeded to the entrance of the Dardanelles, communicating with Besika on passing this morning, but I found no telegram awaiting me there. I then embarked on board the "Sultan."

2. On passing Koumkaleh Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at the Dardanelles met me in a steam-tug. He informed me he had no telegram for me, but showed me one he had received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte to the effect that no orders had been sent to the Dardanelles to allow the squadron to pass, and submitting to me whether I should pass immediately or not.

3. I then sent the "Salamis" on to Chanak with a letter to the Pasha, copy of which I inclose, and directed Commander Egerton to acquaint me by signal if permission for the ships to pass was granted. The squadron followed at moderate speed until the "Salamis" were in sight with the expected signal flying. She rejoined me a quarter of mile below the Khilid Bahr fort, with their Lordships' telegrams of the 24th, ordering the squadron to anchor in Besika Bay and wait orders.

Commander Egerton reported to me that he had been informed officially by the Colonel commandant of the forts (his Excellency the Pasha and Military Governor being absent at Gallipoli) that permission had been received from Constantinople to allow the ships to pass.

4. Rear-Admiral Sir E. Commerell returned immediately to Besika Bay with all the ships except the "Sultan;" but, being so near, I thought it better to continue abreast of the fort to salute the Turkish flag. Having done so, and the fort having

* "Salamis," "Agincourt," "Swiftsure," "Temeraire," "Sultan," "Helicon," "Rupert," "Ruby," and "Research."

returned the salute, and having despatched the necessary telegrams, I returned to this anchorage.

5. I also forward a copy of a letter I addressed to the Colonel commandant of the forts on receiving their Lordships' orders not to pass.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 264.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to Hussein Pasha.

Sir,

"*Sultan*," *off the Entrance to the Dardanelles, January* 25, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received instructions to proceed immediately with the squadron under my command to Constantinople; and as his Excellency the Ambassador at the Porte acquainted me on the 19th that the Government of His Majesty the Sultan had requested that these ships might be ready to enter the Dardanelles at once should the Russians advance towards Gallipoli, I presume your Excellency will have received orders to permit them to pass your forts.

As time presses, I shall not be able to anchor at Chanak, but I shall have the honour of saluting your flag as I pass the fort.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. HORNBY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 264.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Colonel Commandant of the Military Forces at the Dardanelles.

Sir,

"*Sultan*," *off Chanak, January* 25, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to thank you for your permission to pass your forts with the squadron under my command, but I have just received an order from the British Government to anchor in Besika Bay and await further orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. HORNBY.

No. 265.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 148.)
(Telegraphic.)

Pera, February 4, 1878.

NAMES of the European fortresses mentioned in my telegram No. 146 are Widdin, Rustchuk, and Silistria.

No. 266.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 150.)
(Telegraphic.)

Pera, February 4, 1878.

CONVENTION of Armistice provides for raising of blockade in Black Sea and re-establishment of communications with Odessa. It is suspected that Russia wishes to make arrangements to send back armies by sea.

No. 267.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 153.)
(Telegraphic.)

Pera, February 4, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 151, I presume Austrian seven points are those mentioned in Secret and Confidential print received by messenger.

No. 268.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 169.) *Pera, February 4, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

CHANGE of Ministry made to-day by Sultan after long consultation with Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, to whose terms His Majesty agreed, is a very important step in a constitutional direction which, so far as I can learn, has given satisfaction. Those about His Majesty's person who were believed to exercise unconstitutional influence have been removed. President of the Cabinet will in future name Ministers, who will be confirmed by Sultan, and be responsible. New appointments in general good.

No. 269.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 6, 1878, 9·30 P.M.*
(Confidential.)

A CORRESPONDENCE is going on between St. Petersburgh and Vienna on the question of the seat of the proposed Conference. Prince Gortchakow objects to Vienna ostensibly on national grounds, but probably on those of personal vanity, wishing to be President of it. This position would naturally fall to Count Andrassy if Conference was held at Vienna, but to Prince Gortchakow as President of one if held elsewhere. Question not yet decided; should final decision be for Vienna, it is probable that Prince Gortchakow will not attend in person, and that General Ignatiew will be the Russian Plenipotentiary. This may possibly induce Count Andrassy to cede to Prince Gortchakow's wish.

(Secret.)*

I am told privately, but not officially, that the Russian occupation of Bulgaria is to be for two years, at the expense of Turkey.

No. 270.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

Athens, February 6, 1878, 11 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

TRUSTING in assurances given by Representatives of Great Powers that the interests of the Greek population in the Turkish provinces will be taken into consideration, ( ) Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the name of the Government, has formally declared that, in compliance with the advice of the Great Powers, orders have been sent this evening for the withdrawal of the Greek troops from Turkish territory.

The King and Government deserve support for this measure, which is likely to be unpopular with the army and the people.

No. 271.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 13.) *Vienna, February 7, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

THE Austrian Government have no intelligence similar to that given in Mr. Layard's (telegram?) of Tuesday, no telegram from Constantinople having been received here for three days.

No. 272.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7, 3·20 P.M.)

Paris, February 7, 1878, 1 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

FRENCH Government has received no intelligence from Constantinople similar to that in Mr. Layard's telegram of the 5th, but their latest news is only dated 4th.

---

* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 273.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7, 4·10 P.M.)

Paris, February 7, 1878, 2 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my despatch No. 115 of yesterday, Roumanian Agent made the same communication to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs that he did to me.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that he answered that in all matters relating to the Danube, France must leave the initiative to Austria.

No. 274.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7, 4·10 P.M.)

Paris, February 7, 1878, 2·15 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs begs me to tell you that he thinks that everything should be done to facilitate the attendance of Prince Gortchakow at the Conference, and that in his opinion if Prince Gortchakow does not come it will be a sure sign that Russia does not mean the Conference to succeed.

No. 275.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7, 4 P.M.)

Paris, February 7, 1878, 2·50 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

M. FOURNIER, the new French Ambassador at Constantinople, sets out for his post this evening.

With regard to question of Straits, he is instructed to place himself on the same ground as England, but without making any official communication or giving any pledge.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs begs me to tell you this confidentially.

He considers the English view to be that the *status quo* should be maintained, and his own opinion is that if Sultan is to remain at Constantinople it is essential that he should have, on the one hand, the power of keeping the Straits ordinarily closed and control that of opening them in case of need to a fleet coming to his defence.

No. 276.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

Berlin, February 7, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

LAST telegram received by German Government direct from Prince Reuss is of 4th instant, and does not allude to state of things described by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

No. 277.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

Berlin, February 7, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

GERMAN Government have accepted the proposed Conference at Vienna, but will not object to any other town the Austrian Government may think preferable.

No. 278.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 7, 1878, 12·45 P.M.*

INFORM French Government that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to send ships up to Constantinople for the protection of British subjects, in consequence of the Russian occupation of the lines protecting the capital.

Will the French Government be prepared to give similar orders? Ascertain, and reply as soon as possible.

No. 279.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 7, 1878.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Mr. Layard, dated yesterday 1 P.M.:—

[Insert Mr. Layard's telegram of February 6, 1 P.M.]

Inform Count Andrassy, and ask whether Austrian Government intends to take any step.

You may at the same time state confidentially to Count Andrassy that Lord Augustus Loftus telegraphed last night that he had been privately informed that the Russian occupation of Bulgaria is to be for two years at the expense of Turkey.

No. 280.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 7, 1878, 2·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 168 of the 6th instant, can you ascertain whether the occupation of Chatalja lines by Russians was included in the Armistice signed on the 31st January?

No. 281.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 7, 1878, 3·30 P.M.*

COMMUNICATE to Prince Gortchakow substance of telegram received from Ambassador at Constantinople that the Russians have occupied Tchataldja in considerable force, notwithstanding protest of Turkish General, which Russian General refused to receive, and that the Russian General having insisted on the abandonment of the Armistice, the Turks have been compelled altogether to retire from them, thus leaving Constantinople quite undefended.

Her Majesty's Government cannot but regard this step as pointing to an immediate occupation of Constantinople, for which no reasons of military necessity now exist, the Turkish resistance having ceased, and orders having been given for the stoppage of hostilities, as reported in your telegram of the 4th instant.

Remind the Russian Government of the assurance given by the Emperor to Colonel Wellesley, as stated in the Memorandum drawn up by that officer, and approved by His Majesty, that "the Emperor will not occupy Constantinople for the sake of military honour, but only if such a step is rendered necessary by the march of events."

No. 282.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.[a]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 7, 1878, 5 P.M.*

VIENNA telegram in to-day's "Times" says: "According to a telegram of the 'Presse' from Tirnova, the surrender of the Turkish flotilla of monitors and other armed steamers on the Danube is included in the evacuation of the river fortresses."

Is there any foundation for this report?

No. 283.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Paris, Rome, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Constantinople.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 7, 1878, 6·30 P.M.*

THE following communication has been made to me by the Russian Ambassador, and has been read to both Houses of Parliament this afternoon:—

"L'Ambassadeur de Russie s'étant adressé à son Gouvernement pour demander s'il était vrai que l'armée Russe avançait vers Constantinople, et avait pris une position fortifiée faisant partie de la ligne de défense de Constantinople, a reçu du Prince Gortchakow la réponse suivante de St. Pétersbourg en date du $\frac{26 \text{ Janvier}}{7 \text{ Février}}$.

"'L'ordre est donné à nos commandants militaires d'arrêter les hostilités sur toute la ligne en Europe et en Asie. Il n'y a pas un mot de vrai dans les rumeurs qui vous sont parvenues.'"

No. 284.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 7, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with much satisfaction from your telegram of last night that the Greek Government has given orders for the withdrawal of its troops from Turkish territory.

No. 285.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, February 7, 1878.*

VICE-CONSUL COOPER reports from Novi-Bazar that, in spite of the armistice, the Servians continue to advance in the neighbourhood of Sjenica.

No. 286.

Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, February 7, 1878.*

ITALIAN squadron, composed of five iron-clads, with Rear-Admiral, arrived. French iron-clad "Couronne" here. Three more expected. British, only "Research." Servians occupy railway near Pristin.

No. 287.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, February 7, 1878.*

ROUMANIAN Parliament has declared that the cession of Bessarabia is to be protested against, and resisted by every means in their power, and that Roumania will accept no compensation.

---

[a] Repeated to Sir H. Elliot.

No. 287*.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 172.)
(Telegraphic.)
Pera, February 7, 1878.

ENGLISH doctors arrived here most brutally treated by Russians. Could representations be made to secure others in Russian hands humane treatment under Geneva Convention?

No. 288.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 157.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, February 7, 1878.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 168 of the 6th instant, in which you report that the Russians have occupied Chataldja in considerable force, I have to instruct your Excellency to ascertain if possible whether the occupation of these lines was included in the terms of the armistice signed on the 31st January.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 289.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 158.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, February 7, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency, herewith, a copy of a letter from the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Condor," reporting the murder of three Bulgarian prisoners at Alexandretta; and I have to instruct you to bring this matter to the notice of the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 290.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 159.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, February 7, 1878.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 116 of the 24th ultimo, relative to the apprehension prevalent in Constantinople of disturbances among the population; and I have to express to you my approval of the steps taken by your Excellency to call the attention of the Turkish authorities to the rumours which were circulating in Constantinople to this effect, in order that proper measures of precaution might be taken to prevent any possible outbreak.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 291.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 170.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, February 7, 1878.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 107 of the 23rd ultimo, containing a report from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy respecting pillages and massacres by Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks in the neighbourhood of Bourgas; and I have to express to you my approval of your having instructed Mr. Brophy to proceed to Bourgas, and of the instructions given by you to the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Torch."

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 292.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 177.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, February 7, 1878.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 106 of the 23rd ultimo, relative to an attack made upon M. Trifili, the British Consular Agent and Austro-Hungarian Vice-Consul at Rethymo, by the mob at that place; and I approve of your having concurred in the opinion expressed by Count Zichy that, in the present state of the Island of Crete, it was not necessary or expedient to take any further steps for the punishment of the offenders.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 293.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 180.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, February 7, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a Memorandum communicated to me this day by the Russian Ambassador, conveying assurances from the Imperial Government with regard to the reported Russian advance on Constantinople; and I have to inquire whether you still confirm the intelligence contained in your telegrams of the 5th and 6th instant, respecting the occupation of Chataldja.

Your above-mentioned telegrams were laid before Parliament to-day, and I have instructed your Excellency by telegram to lose no time in replying to this inquiry.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 294.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 116.)
My Lord,
Foreign Office, February 7, 1871.

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to inform Prince Gortchakow that a telegram has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, to the effect that the Russians have occupied Tchataldja in considerable force, notwithstanding the protest of the Turkish General, which the Russian General refused to receive; and that the latter having insisted on the abandonment of the Tchekmedjé lines as one of the conditions of the armistice, the Turks have been compelled to retire from them altogether, thus leaving Constantinople quite undefended.

Her Majesty's Government cannot but regard this step as pointing to an immediate occupation of Constantinople, for which no reasons of military necessity now exist, the Turkish resistance having ceased, and orders having been given for the cessation of hostilities, as reported in your telegram of the 4th instant.

You will remind the Russian Government of the assurance given by the Emperor to Colonel Wellesley, as stated in the Memorandum drawn up by that officer, and approved by His Imperial Majesty, that "the Emperor will not occupy Constantinople for the sake of military honour, but only if such a step is rendered necessary by the march of events."

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 295.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 90.)
My Lord,
Foreign Office, February 7, 1878.

I HAVE instructed your Excellency by telegraph to-day to inform the French Government that, in consequence of the Russian occupation of the lines protecting Con-

stantinople, it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to send ships up to that capital for the protection of British subjects; and your Excellency was to ascertain whether the French Government will be prepared to give similar orders, and to reply as soon as possible, as the matter is very urgent.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 296.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 14.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 7, 1878.*

I HAVE to instruct you to express to the Greek Government the great satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt from your telegram of last night, that they have given orders for the withdrawal of their troops from Turkish territory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 297.

Memorandum communicated by Count Schouvaloff, February 7, 1878.

L'AMBASSADEUR de Russie s'étant adressé à son Gouvernement pour demander s'il était vrai que l'armée Russe avançait vers Constantinople, et avait pris une position fortifiée faisant partie de la ligne de défense de Constantinople, a reçu du Prince Gortchacow la réponse suivante de St. Pétersbourg, en date du $\frac{25 \text{ January}}{7 \text{ février}}$:—

"L'ordre est donné à nos commandants militaires d'arrêter les hostilités sur toute la ligne en Europe et en Asie. Il n'y a pas un mot de vrai dans les rumeurs qui vous sont parvenues."

No. 298.

The Earl of Derby to Count Beust.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, February 7, 1878.*

I HAVE had the honour of submitting to the Queen and to Her Majesty's Government your Excellency's letter of the 5th instant, stating that you are instructed by the Government of Austria-Hungary to invite Her Majesty's Government to take part in a Conference to be held at Vienna of the Powers who were parties to the Treaty of Paris of 1856 and the Protocol of London of 1871.

I have now the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are ready to take part in the Conference, and agree to its being held at Vienna.

Awaiting the further proposals which your Excellency represents will be hereafter addressed to Her Majesty's Government with regard to the date at which the Conference should be summoned, and the manner in which it should meet, I have, &c

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 299.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 97.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 7, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has reported by telegraph that he learns that one of the conditions upon which the Russian Commander-in-chief has insisted is that the Chekmedjé lines should be abandoned; and he adds that the Turkish forces have consequently been compelled to retire, thus leaving Constantinople completely without defence. The Russians have, he says, occupied Chatalja in considerable force, and are evidently so consolidating their forward movement as to improve to an enormous extent the military position which they will occupy whilst the armistice lasts.

It is my wish that your Excellency should communicate this information to Count Andrassy, and inquire whether it is the intention of the Austro-Hungarian Government to take any step. I authorize you to state to his Excellency confidentially, at the same time, that Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh reported last night by telegraph, that he had been privately informed that the occupation of Bulgaria by Russia will last for two years, and that it is intended that Turkey shall bear the expenses of the occupation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 300.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 12. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed to Mr. Layard on the progress of the Montenegrin advance towards Scutari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 300.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Scutari, January 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that from Dulcigno the Montenegrins have marched on to the village of San Giorgio, which is on the right bank of the River Boyana, and it is supposed another corps of the enemy is advancing along the western shores of Lake Scutari, heavy artillery fire having been audible from that quarter since early morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 301.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 13. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January 27, 1878.*

IN continuation of the recital of the occurrences in Mirdicia given in my despatches to Mr. Layard of yesterday and this morning, copies of which I beg to transmit herewith, I have the honour to report that Ali Saib Pasha has informed me that the victims of the Mirdites were a captain and two soldiers killed, and two soldiers carried off prisoners.

They were proceeding the day before yesterday with a caravan of provisions for the troops stationed at Casnietti and Orosci, when at Muella they were stopped by a large body of Mirdites, who told them that the roads were blockaded, and that they could not advance. An attempt to force the passage brought about a conflict and the loss above noted.

For some days past the Mirdites had been attending meetings summoned by their Chieftains, and both Orosci and Casnietti were surrounded by large bodies of them.

Yesterday evening, when the Pasha gave me this information, and added that he had telegraphed to Dibra and Matia to fall upon Mirdicia with fire and sword, I appealed to his Excellency for a moment's calm consideration. I pointed out the critical position of his troops here through the vicinity of the Montenegrins, and I showed how disastrous it might prove for him to draw upon him the hostility of the whole of the Roman Catholic mountaineers, who would feel that their only salvation against such savages as the Dibriotes would be by preventing the annihilation of the Mirdites, the most powerful of the Christian tribes.

Ali Saib Pasha was momentarily too much incensed at the loss of his officer and men to promise to take my prayer under consideration.

On leaving his Excellency I met my Austrian colleague, M. Lippich, to whom I

recounted what had occurred, and he, agreeing with the view I had taken of the matter, at once went to Ali Saib Pasha and supported it.

Early this morning I again called on the Pasha, and on expressing a hope that it was not too late for me to still urge for a suspension of his orders to the Dibriotes, his Excellency told me that as soon as I had left him yesterday he determined to follow my advice, and that he had consequently directed the Mahommedan tribes only to hold themselves in readiness. He had, however, been obliged to dispatch early this morning Ibrahim Bey with a battalion to effect the relief of Casnietti and Orosci; otherwise their garrisons might have to surrender to the Mirdites.

The whole of the troops are to retire from Mirdicia, and, if no opposition is made by the mountaineers, no property is to be destroyed as had been first contemplated.

There can be no doubt that the Turkish authorities are somewhat justified in feeling irritated at the conduct of the Mirdites, who have been treated with the greatest leniency since their insurrection of last spring, and whose grievances are merely sentimental, as they are self-governed and free in their mountains; and the only excuse which can be brought forward for months of contemplated treachery is the unjustifiable murder last week by some Mahommedan Albanians of Scutari of two Mirdites who had come to attend the weekly market. The authorities ought to have at once punished the assassins, but, just at present, the Government here has little power, and none at all when it is desirable it should act in favour of quasi-rebels.

From a confidential source I have learnt that the Austrian Consul-General has lately been using all his influence to induce the Roman Catholic tribes to furnish their usual contingents of irregular troops to the Turks, as his Government evidently views with great disfavour the successful progress of the Montenegrins in Albania.

M. Lippich's exertions with the Mirdites have elicited a letter to him from Prenk Bib Doda.

The young Chieftain states that he is prepared to appear in the Turkish camp with the Mirdites provided the Ottoman Government will constitute him Prince of a territory, to be bounded on the north by the branch of the River Drin falling into the Boyana; on the east by the Black Drin; on the south by a line to be drawn from this river to the coast, so as to include Durazzo; and on the west necessarily by the sea.

Further, Bib Doda requires payment of all arrears of salary due to him since he left Constantinople, and that his Principality shall be placed under the guarantee of the Great Powers. In order to show his submission to the latter, he adds, he would not be able to bring forward his contingent before they had decided amongst themselves the number of men he ought to furnish.

This response to M. Lippich's attempt to lead Bib Doda into the paths of loyalty would have but a ludicrous side if the outlines of the contemplated Principality did not happen to coincide very much with those sketched by M. Speyer, the Acting Russian Consul in Scutari, when General Ignatiew called upon him to draw up a report on the most practical manner of moulding North Albania into a contented Government, for the consideration of the Constantinople Conference.

The lapse of time has allowed M. Speyer's proposal to grow slightly towards the South, for in his report he proposed Alessio as the port, and the River Matia as a frontier; and, possibly, Bib Doda is only suggesting Durazzo in order that Alessio may not be refused.

The sudden act of Mirdite disaffection and the launch of Bib Doda's programme at a moment when decisions must be come to concerning these countries bear too much the appearance of pre-arrangement to be passed over entirely unheeded, and for this reason I trust I shall not meet with your Lordship's disapproval for troubling your Lordship at such length.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 301.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Scutari, January 26, 1878.

Sir,

THE following information was communicated to me a few minutes ago by Ali Saib Pasha:—

The high road to Orosci, where a battalion of Redifs is stationed, has been closed by the Mirdites, who killed some zaptiehs who were escorting provisions for that place. The Pasha is sending reinforcements to Mirdicia, in order to secure the safe retreat from Orosci of the troops there after effecting its destruction; and his Excellency has further directed, by telegraph, the Dibriotes and other Mahommedans of the neighbourhood to fall upon the Mirdites with fire and sword.

These measures are most injudicious, for they will compel the Roman Catholic mountaineers to seek safety in undisguised rebellion.

I must once again affirm my opinion that the whole of the Turkish troops from Podgoritza and Spuz ought to be at once summoned to Scutari, to offer a collected front to the invading Montenegrins, and to let the Albanian mountaineers feel that the Turks are still in sufficient force to overcome them.

Of course, if peace is likely to be concluded from one moment to another, the above step should be postponed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 301.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Scutari, January 27, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday I have the honour to report that Ali Saib Pasha has directed the Dibriotes and other Mussulmans not to advance against Mirdicia without further orders, as his Excellency hopes the troops at Orosci will be allowed to effect their retreat without opposition. I fear, however, that the battalion dispatched from this may meet with resistance.

I have been informed secretly that my Austrian colleague, who has been endeavouring to induce the Mirdite Chieftain Bib Doda to come to the assistance of the Turks, has received a letter from him. In it Bib Doda explains his pretensions to be acknowledged as Prince of a territory comprising large parts of north and central Albania and the port of Durazzo.

At the time of the Constantinople Conference a proposal very similar to the above was brought under the notice of General Ignatiew by the Russian Consul here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 302.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 137.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, February 3, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship the translation of part of an article of the "Golos" on the peace, which alludes to a Decree of the Emperor, published on the 31st January, for the formation of four fresh divisions of infantry, with corresponding artillery.

The "Golos" rejoices at this increase of the armed force of the country, notwithstanding that peace has been signed with Turkey, in order that Russia may be ready for any emergency which may arise in the completion of the task which she has undertaken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 302.

Conclusion of Article of the "Golos" of February 3, 1878.

(Translation.)

IT may easily happen that the aid of the army may still be necessary before the final decision of the Eastern question, and for this end it should hold itself in immediate readiness.

In this respect, the measure of precaution made public by the Imperial Decree of January 31, deserves special attention; that measure is the formation of forty-four reserve

battalions of infantry and sixteen batteries of foot artillery, from which are to be formed four reserve divisions of infantry, with the corresponding amount of artillery attached to them.

In order worthily to profit of the results obtained by force of arms, it will be necessary to guarantee our right against any sort of diplomatic weakness; for that word only is of weight which relies upon a sufficient armed force.

Many sacrifices have already been made, and all which may now be necessary to add to these sacrifices will be nothing as compared to what would be required again after some time should the question which caused the war not be resolved now, however much to obtain that end may require the decision of the sword.

No. 303.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 7. Political. Confidential.)

Corfu, February 4, 1878.

My Lord,

SINCE I had the honour of addressing your Lordship on the 31st ultimo (Nos. 5 and 6, Political), matters have been hurrying forward in this quarter at a rapid pace. The Greeks seems to be venturing their all on the cast of a die.

2. Every reliance may be placed on the fidelity of the inclosed extract from a report received from Cerigo a few days ago. It gives a graphic account of the game the Greeks are playing with respect to the alleged insurrectionary movement in Crete, precisely the same "blackleg" policy as was pursued by them in 1866 and 1867, and likely to issue in the same results; such is exactly the game they have been playing, in concert with Russian emissaries, in the bordering Turkish provinces—particularly in Epirus—since the outbreak of the Bosnian insurrection, two years ago, and, if all truth were told, long before that period. The audacious effrontery with which they deny all this, and the tone of injured innocence with which they repel all charges of any complicity in such dark schemes, imposes on no one, and, indeed, surprises no one acquainted with the agencies at work in Athens and in these islands.

3. The inclosed reports, official and private, from Santa Maura, show very clearly what is being done in and around that important centre of anti-Turkish aggression.

The comparative statement of the relative strength of the disposable combatants on the Albanian frontier is anything but promising for the triumph of Hellenic aspirations.

4. Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" returned from her trip to Patras and the southern islands yesterday morning, and reports all quiet at the dates of her leaving.

The new levies were being assiduously drilled and prepared for joining the army in the field. The state of the weather prevented her from visiting Santa Maura, which I do not at all regret, considering present doings in that island.

What I regard as particularly desirable is that any Queen's ship stationed in these waters should be provided with a competent interpreter, without which no political information worth having can be obtained at ports where there is no British Consular Agent, as is the case all along the Albanian coast between Corfu and Scutari.

I beg to be allowed to submit this regrettable circumstance to your Lordship's indulgent consideration, and I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 303.

Extract from a Report from Cerigo, dated January 19, 1878.

(Confidential.)

FROM Crete I have latterly no direct intelligence, because the regular Cerigotte coasting-boats have ceased to run, from their dread of being overhauled by the Turkish cruizers. By those of them, however, which carry on the trade by way of Syra, a round-about, whereby eight days are lost, my first impressions are confirmed, namely, that whatever there is of the nature of a revolutionary movement in Crete is neither serious nor spontaneous, but factitious. The Greek Government incites the unfortunate population to reckless demonstrations, which have not the slightest chance of eventual success, particularly in view of the impending armistice and consequent peace, which will leave the Turks free to fall on the ill-fated island with all their sea and land forces.

But what of that? Will any the less crowds of unprincipled adventurers, who fish in troubled waters, enrich themselves with the funds of the Committees, and with such as the Government are able to furnish?

And that the movement in question is not spontaneous is proved by the following fact of recent occurrence, of which I was personally cognizant.

On Monday the 21st current, two "trecalandris" (you know the sort of craft) rigged up as consting-boats ("braciere") arrived at San Nicolo (the ancient Skandria) with about fifty volunteers on board; and the day after, two others, and also a small "goeletta," with from seventy-five to eighty more, with some ammunition.

This expedition is destined for Crete, under the command of a certain Manitachi, son of a Colonel of Engineers of that name. Again, on Thursday the 24th instant, an express boat arrived from Gutheion, bearer of a telegram from the Minister of War, with an order addressed to the Corporal or Sergeant of Gendarmerie to arrest two (only two) of the pretended volunteers, namely, Emmanuele Zimbracachi, son or nephew of the Minister, and a certain Papagiorgio, and to send them under escort to Athens, and threatening condign punishment in the event of their being allowed to escape.

The poor corporal, although it was blowing a storm at the time, accompanied by his four gendarmes, hastened to the scene of action (San Nicolo), but returned (to Capsali) on the Saturday following *re infecta*, inasmuch as the "volunteers" declared that no such individuals as those wanted belonged to their body; and this intimation was accompanied by a word or two whispered in the ear of the corporal, to the effect that he "had better take himself off," a hint which he thought it advisable to obey.

Now, he (the corporal) states that the party consisted of Greek regulars, of all arms, men of the line, cavalry, artillery, and even "pompiers." This is why I have qualified them as "pretended volunteers," for, in reality, as far as regarded the majority of them at least, they were regular soldiers. I was told that they fired at and killed several lambs belonging to flocks feeding thereabouts, but that they afterwards paid for them.

The weather was at first favourable for making the north-west point of Crete, although blowing rather a gale, but now it is said they are waiting till the moon wanes, in order better to escape the vigilance of the Turkish cruizers. Meanwhile the weather has broke; a strong sirocco has set in which threatens to drift their boats from their anchors, and makes it impossible for them to leave.

Inclosure 2 in No. 303.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Santa Maura, January 31, 1878.

Sir,

REFERRING to my despatch of the 27th instant on the subject of the demonstration made here on Sunday last, urging the Government to go to war with Turkey with the view of protecting the interests of the Greek nation, I have the honour to inform you that the "Eparch" published on Tuesday last a telegram from the Minister of the Interior directing him "to inform the people of Leucadia that the patriotic wishes expressed by them were those of the Greek nation, that the Government will not as a Hellenic Government is bound to do, and that peace and order are the strength of the nation."

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 303.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Santa Maura, February 2, 1878.

Sir,

IN my despatch of the 26th ultimo, I had the honour of reporting that the Committees were exerting themselves to raise a "Greek question;" but the measures taken by them in the course of this week show that prompt action in Epirus has now been decided upon. A cyphered telegram from the Athens committees to their colleagues here, received on last Tuesday evening, 29th ultimo, seems to have conveyed the last word of the party of action, as on its receipt they held a secret meeting, at which I am informed several officers of the garrison also attended; and on the following morning (Wednesday 30th) two members were sent as delegates to Vonitza, Carvassara, and Lutraki, charged with a secret mission.

But from what has since transpired, the object of these delegates was to confer with the other branch committees at the above-named places, and to meet at Lutraki the Epirote agitators with the view of hastening the movement in Epirus. Nothing else has yet transpired as to the result of these negotiations, but it is here generally believed that the insurrection is imminent. It remains, however, to be seen how far and to what extent the Rayahs will be disposed to second the movement of any band or bands of volunteers which may cross the frontier, so long as Greece does not actually take the field.

2. The Municipal Council, in view of approaching events, telegraphed to Athens on Thursday last, 31st ultimo, urging the Government to place without further delay the Fort of Santa Maura in a proper state of defence, to provide for the protection of these ports with torpedoes, and to call out the National Guard. The Government have not yet replied to this appeal, but there is no doubt timely precautions will be taken to protect this important position, precautions rendered all the more necessary owing to the fact of its having been made a central depôt of arms and ammunition intended for military operations in Epirus.

3. A Government Circular was last night telegraphically communicated to the Eparch, naming the Gulf of Eleusis as the safest shelter to Greek merchant vessels in the event of their being pursued by hostile ships of war.

4. In the presence of this state of affairs, I deem it my duty to recommend that an English gun-boat may be stationed in these waters so as to be ready for any emergency, should the Moslems, in a moment of despair, be disposed to repeat against the defenceless Christians the bloody deeds which have stained the pages of the history of these last two years. I am perhaps touching on a subject which more directly concerns my colleague at Prevesa; but, situated as I am in the immediate proximity to places which may become ere long the scene of massacre, I consider myself in duty bound to submit the matter to your consideration, inasmuch as the telegraphic communication between this and Corfu may at any moment be interrupted.

5. No arrival of troops or war material to report this week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

P.S.—The battery of artillery has been ordered to be in readiness to leave for Agrinion.

F. O.

Inclosure 3 in No. 303.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

(Private and Confidential.)
(Extract.)

Santa Maura, February 3, 1878.

BY the Austrian steamer of this morning Prince (?) Wassilikoff and four of a suite arrived here and landed at the fort. The presence of this Russian personage at such a moment is undoubtedly connected with some political object. I am sure I shall be able to get at the bottom of it, in which case I will wire. The Russian Consular Agent hoisted his flag, as if the Prince were a frigate (?) or a member of the Imperial Family!

According to the best authority, the following is the approximate strength of the respective forces concentrated on and near the frontier:—

Greeks.

Santa Maura	620
Zaverda	250
Astakos	250
Vonitz	600
Carvansera along the line to Anino (Roumis)	1,000
Total	2,720

Turks.

Prevesa (Redifs)	1,500
" (Bashi-Bazouks)	70
In and about Arta down to Anino (chiefly Bashi-Bazouks)	6,000
Janina	4,000
Total	11,570

There is a great panic in the place lest the Turks should make a raid, or iron-clads make their appearance. It is said the Greek steamers will no longer call here, as all the Company's steamers have been engaged by Government for the transport of troops, &c. So we shall be completely isolated, but what is more serious is that there is no grain in the island.

P.S.—Prince Wassilikoff is accompanied by your Russian colleague of Corfu, and by Mr. Stillman, the "Times" Correspondent in Montenegro.

They dined at M. Varzellis,* and return to Corfu by this boat. The Prince has received visits from several Leucadian notabilities.

This is all I have been able to learn, but I must yet know what is the object of this visit.

I am told Mr. Stillman will return here by next Sunday's boat to install himself as "Times'" correspondent during approaching events.

No. 304.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, February* 8.)

Athènes, le 7 *Février*, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

COMPTANT, en pleine confiance, sur la promesse des Grandes Puissances, qu'elles ne manqueront pas d'agir efficacement auprès de la Sublime Porte afin de sauvegarder, dès ce moment, la vie, l'honneur et les biens des populations Helléniques de la Turquie, se trouvant sans cesse sous la menace de pareils désastres, comptant aussi sur leur promesse de faire en sorte que les aspirations nationales et les intérêts de ces mêmes populations deviennent l'objet des délibérations du Congrès prochain, fermement convaincu que les Puissances, dans leur esprit d'équité et d'impartialité, regarderont comme un juste complément, et comme une réalisation naturelle de leur promesse concernant les aspirations nationales des Hellènes de Turquie, la représentation spéciale de ces aspirations dans le sein du Congrès—représentation d'autant plus *laborieuse*, que les vœux des populations en question et les conditions vitales de leur existence seraient, sans cela, exposées non-seulement à être préjudiciées, au profit des intérêts des autres populations de la Turquie, *mais aussi bien* à être contestées par le Gouvernement Ottoman, sans avoir un défenseur naturel, le Gouvernement vient de donner au Commandant-en-chef de ses troupes l'ordre de repasser la frontière.

Cette mesure, qui est une preuve évidente de l'empressement que le Gouvernement a mis à se rendre aux conseils des Grandes Puissances, nous donne aussi le droit d'espérer que la réalisation de notre demande touchant la représentation des aspirations Helléniques dans le Congrès prochain sera avec bienveillance agréée par les Grandes Puissances.

N.B.—The words in italics are not quite clear in the telegraphic message received.

No. 305.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 8.)

Tiflis, February 8, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

DURING last two months of this force 10,000 have died. Besides, there are at present 40,000 on the sick list; fit for duty not 90,000 all arms.

No. 306.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 8.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 6 *Février*, 1878.

My Lord,

A LA réception de la lettre de votre Excellence du 5 de ce mois, je me suis empressé de demander par télégraphe à la Sublime Porte l'autorisation de communiquer au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine le texte complet des bases de paix signées à Andrinople le

* Ex-Russian Consul at Arta, and for the present located at Santa Maura.

31 du mois dernier pour qu'il soit publié, et j'ai maintenant l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que je viens de recevoir en réponse de mon Gouvernement une dépêche télégraphique portant que la Sublime Porte a communiqué hier confidentiellement à son Excellence Mr. Layard copies du Protocole contenant les bases de paix et de la Convention de l'Armistice.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

No. 307.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 161.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 4, 1878.*

TITLE of Grand Vizier abolished. Ahmed Vefyk Pasha appointed President of Council and Minister of Interior, with power of forming new Ministry. Mahmoud Damat Pasha replaced by Namyk Pasha.

No. 308.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February 7, 1878, 6·30 P.M.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs owns first impression is in favour of sending at once to Constantinople two French iron-clads, which are now at Smyrna, but he cannot answer positively until he has seen the Marshal.

He hopes to give me a positive answer to-night.

No. 309.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February 7, 1878, midnight.*

FRENCH Government will telegraph to-night to the French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, to obtain Firman for French ships of war to pass Dardanelles. The Chargé d'Affaires is to telegraph directly the Firman is granted, and report the actual state of things.

If the state of things appears to warrant it, orders will then be sent from Paris for one or more iron-clads to go to Constantinople. The orders might, perhaps, be sent off on Saturday morning.

This is the definitive answer to your question.

I showed French Minister for Foreign Affairs your telegram reporting Russian Ambassador's communication.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs does not consider that the information received up to this time from their own agents would, taken by itself, warrant the dispatch of the ships to Constantinople.

He enquires whether Her Majesty's Government have proposed to the Italian Government also to send ships to Constantinople.

No. 310.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 7, 1878, 6 P.M.*

I AM assured that the Russian troops have not advanced since the signature of the armistice. Similar assurances have been telegraphed to Count Schouvaloff for communication to your Lordship. Terms of armistice not yet known here; but I learn that it has no fixed limit.

No. 311.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 7, 1878, 6·30 P.M.*

THE Greek Government have appealed to the Imperial Government for their influence in the defence of Greece. The Imperial Government have replied that while blaming the course taken by Greece in the war movement, it will use its endeavours to dissuade Turkey from having recourse to hostilities against them.

No. 312.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 7, 1878, 6·45 P.M.*

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS telegraphs as follows, dated Adrianople, Friday, February 1:—

"On January 29 the vanguard cavalry of General Stroukow took by assault the town of Tchorlou. Turkish force consisted of 1,000 regular cavalry. General Ernroth occupied Osman Bazar on January 27. This town was completely destroyed by Turks before their departure on January 26. After a severe combat of four hours Turks were thrown back by General Zimmerman on Bazardjik, leaving 150 dead, amongst them Egyptian General Zakharin. Telegraph between Varna and Bazardjik cut same day by an understanding with the Ottoman Government. Measures have been taken for the immediate re-establishment of entire liberty of trade by land and sea.

No. 313.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February 7, 1878, 4·30 P.M.*

THE Italian Government has no confirmation of Russian advance on Constantinople. M. Depretis has telegraphed to Count Corti to make inquiries. If news is confirmed, his Excellency thinks the Powers should settle together what conduct they are to pursue.

No. 314.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 164.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February 4, 1878, 10·20 P.M.*

NOTWITHSTANDING the armistice, Russians appear to be advancing on all sides. Porte states that they are now at Sharkeui, close to Boulair, and are approaching Tchataldja. The population is everywhere flying before them, and flocking to Constantinople. Porte has directed Plenipotentiaries to represent this to Grand Duke Nicholas. No Proclamation to reassure Mussulman population has been issued.

No. 315.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 165. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 5, 1878.*

I AM informed that the Porte entirely relying upon the pledge given by Russia, through Her Majesty's Government, not to attack Gallipoli Peninsula if Turkish troops are not concentrated there, are about to remove great part of their force from thence for employment against Greece.

No. 316.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 170.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 6, 1878.*

TURKISH Minister at Athens directed to call upon Greek Government to withdraw its troops immediately from Turkish territory in order to avoid consequences.

No. 317.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 173.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 7, 1878, 6·30 P.M.*

ARMISTICE is between Russia, Servia, Roumania, and Turkey, and contains ten Articles.

1. Provides that three days' notice must be given before resumption of hostilities. Russia agrees to communicate armistice to Montenegro.

2. Territory and things taken after signature to be restored.

3. Defines in detail line of demarcation and neutral zone for Russia, Servia, and Turkey, placing almost the whole of Bulgaria, Roumelia, and Thrace, up to the lines of Constantinople and Gallipoli, in Russian hands. No fortifications to be retained or new ones constructed on the neutral territory. Line of demarcation for Montenegro and Servia to be determined by a Joint Commission. Russia, in order to obtain supplies, but not war material, to occupy Bourgas and Midia on the Black Sea.

4. Armies beyond line of demarcation to be withdrawn within three days of signature of armistice.

5. Turks evacuating the fortifications mentioned in third Article will remove guns, &c., to places and by routes defined. If they cannot be removed an inventory is to be taken. Evacuation to be complete within seven days after orders received by Commanders.

6. Turkish army and ships-of-war to evacuate the Sulina within three days if not prevented by ice. Russia will remove obstacles in Danube and superintend the navigation of the river.

7. Turkish authorities to remain in certain places.

8. Railways to continue to work under certain conditions

9. Blockade of Black Sea raised.

10. Turkish wounded to remain under the care of Russia.

Armistice commenced on 21st ultimo at 7 P.M. Matters relative to armistice in Armenia to be settled by the Russian and Turkish Commanders on the spot.

Turks have commenced the withdrawal of guns from the Constantinople lines.

No. 318.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 174.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 7, 1878.*

ITALIAN Admiral, five iron-clads, at Salonica.

No. 319.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 8, 1878.*

GENERAL ZIMMERMAN telegraphs to Minister of War as follows, dated Bazardjik, February 5:—

"General Mausey occupied on February 3 Kosloudja and Pravody. Four bridges of railway to Pravody destroyed. Two stations and telegraph and rails in four places. Having learnt during night of February 3 and 4 from Imperial Commander-in-chief the conclusion of armistice, immediately informed General Mausey, who received the information at Baladji, 15 versts from Bazardjik, on his way to rejoin me.

No. 320.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 8, 1878.*

FOLLOWING is official text of preliminaries signed at Adrianople on January 31, published in this morning's "Journal de Saint Pétersbourg," 20th January:—

"Les bases préalables à la conclusion de l'armistice qui vient de suspendre les hostilités ayant été acceptées et signées par les Plénipotentiaires Turcs au Quartier-général, nous sommes en mesure d'en publier le texte. Nous rappelons que ces bases n'ont pour but que de délimiter le terrain sur lequel la paix définitive peut être négociée ultérieurement, soit entre les belligérants pour les questions qui les concernent exclusivement, soit avec la participation des Grandes Puissances pour les questions qui touchent aux intérêts Européens.

"Conditions préliminaires de paix remises par Mgr. le Grand Duc, Commandant-en-chef, aux Délégués Turcs. Si les Turcs demandaient aux avant-postes la paix ou un armistice Son Altesse M. le Commandant-en-chef devra leur notifier que les hostilités ne sauraient être suspendues que si les bases suivantes étaient préalablement adoptées:—

"La Bulgarie, dans des limites déterminées par la majorité de la population Bulgare, et qui en aucun cas ne sauraient être moindres que celles indiquées par la Conférence de Constantinople, serait érigée en Principauté autonome tributaire, avec un Gouvernement National Chrétien et une milice indigène. L'armée Ottomane n'y séjournerait plus sauf quelques points à déterminer d'un commun accord.

"2. L'indépendance du Monténégro serait reconnue. Un accroissement de territoire équivalent à celui que le sort des armes a fait tomber entre ses mains lui serait assuré; la frontière définitive serait fixée ultérieurement.

"3. L'indépendance de la Roumanie et de la Serbie serait reconnue. Un dédommagement territorial suffisant serait assuré à la première, et une rectification de frontière à la seconde.

"4. La Bosnie et l'Herzégovine seraient dotées d'une administration autonome; avec des garanties suffisantes. Des réformes analogues seraient introduites dans les autres provinces Chrétiennes de la Turquie de l'Europe.

"5. La Porte s'engagerait à dédommager la Russie des frais de la guerre, et des pertes qu'elle a dû s'imposer; le mode, soit pécuniaire soit territorial, ou autre de cette indemnité serait réglé ultérieurement. Sa Majesté le Sultan conviendrait de s'entendre avec Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie pour sauvegarder les droits et les intérêts de la Russie dans les Détroits du Bosphore et des Dardanelles.

"En témoignage de l'acceptation de ces bases essentielles des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans se rendront immédiatement à Odessa ou à Sevastopol pour y négocier avec les Plénipotentiaires Russes des Préliminaires de Paix. Aussitôt que l'acceptation de ces conditions préalables sera officiellement notifiée aux Commandants-en-chef des armées Impériales, des Conventions d'armistice devront être négociées sur les deux théâtres de la guerre, et les hostilités pourront être provisoirement suspendues. Les deux Commandants-en-chef auront la faculté de compléter les conditions ci-dessus en désignant certains points stratégiques et certaines forteresses qui devront être évacuées comme garantie matérielle de l'acceptation par la Sublime Porte de nos conditions d'armistice, et de son entrée dans la voie des négociations de paix."

No. 321.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 19. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 8, 1878.*

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram of February 6, I may inform your Lordship that Russian despatch explaining Prince Gortchakow's (reasons?) for objecting to Vienna will reach M. de Novikoff to-morrow. They have, however, been made known to Count Andrassy by telegraph. There has never been an idea of St. Petersburgh as the seat of the Conference. Prince Gortchakow has, I believe, suggested Baden, Dresden, Geneva, and others. I do not believe he attaches the smallest importance to the term Congress or Conference. If Conference is held in any place but the capital of any Great Power he will probably attend in person.

No. 322.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, February 8, 1878, 4·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Admiral has been instructed to proceed to Constantinople for the protection of British life and property, with a detachment of the fleet. Request Porte to give necessary orders without delay to the forts.

Her Majesty's Government presume that a further Firman is not required; but procure one if you consider it desirable.

Communicate forthwith with Admiral, who has been ordered to proceed to-morrow afternoon.

No. 323.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

Foreign Office, February 8, 1878, 5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 7th instant, midnight, Her Majesty's Government have ordered a detachment of the fleet to proceed to Constantinople for the protection of British life and property.

Inform the French Government, and express hope of Her Majesty's Government that the French Government will not hesitate to give similar orders.

Her Majesty's Government have invited the Italian and other Powers to do likewise.

No. 324.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, February 8, 1878, 5·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Government have ordered a detachment of the fleet to proceed to Constantinople, for the protection of British life and property.

Inform the Russian Government, and explain the object with which the vessels are sent.

No. 325.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.[a]

Foreign Office, February 8, 1878, 5·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Government have ordered a detachment of the fleet to proceed to Constantinople, for the protection of British life and property.

Inform the Government to which you are accredited, and explain the object with which the vessels are proceeding to Constantinople.

Invite the Government to give similar instructions to their Naval Commander-in-chief on the station.

No. 326.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, February 8, 1878, 5·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

BRITISH merchants ask whether torpedoes will be removed from the Danube, Odessa, and other Black Sea ports, and whether the export of wheat and other commodities will be allowed during armistice.

Ascertain and report by telegraph.

---

[a] Similar telegrams were sent to Sir H. Elliot and Lord Odo Russell.

No. 327.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, February 8, 1878, 6·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

ROUMANIAN Agent at Paris states to Lord Lyons that he has been informed by his Government that General Ignatieff has delivered at Bucharest letters from Emperor of Russia to Prince Charles, and from Prince Gortchakow to Minister for Foreign Affairs, authorizing him to treat. He has demanded retrocession of Bessarabia to Kilia branch in return for Dobrudscha and mouths of Danube. Roumanian Government has replied that European Powers must pronounce upon a question which is eminently European. Roumanian Agent said compensation offered would be positive injury to Roumania, as Russia would compel all traffic to pass through Kilia branch, or stop Danube traffic altogether, and thus ruin the country. He also said that a Russian company, no doubt a screen for the Russian Government, was endeavouring to buy the great Roumanian railway. He inquired whether England would assist Roumania in her present utmost need.

No. 328.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, February 8, 1878, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WILL British vessels entering Black Sea during armistice be allowed to trade to and from belligerent ports?

No. 329.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Embassies.

Foreign Office, February 8, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my other telegram of to-day, I have been informed by French Ambassador that French Government have applied to Porte for Firman for two frigates to pass Dardanelles.

No. 330.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 8, 6·30 P.M.)

Rome, February 8, 1878, 4 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FRENCH Ambassador having informed Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, this morning, that the French Government had applied for Firman for passage of two ships through Dardanelles for the protection of French interests at Constantinople, Count Corti has been instructed to apply for a Firman for two Italian iron-clads to protect Italian interests there. In reply to my inquiry, M. Depretis told me he did not intend to make any communication to the Russian Government on this subject.

His Excellency has no news later than 4th instant from Constantinople. He has difficulty in believing in the advance of the Russians, as he cannot conceive how it could be justified or explained after the solemn declaration of Prince Gortchakow.

No. 331.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Embassies.

Foreign Office, February 8, 1878, 8·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

ITALIAN Government has applied to Porte for Firman for two iron-clads.

No. 332.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 99.)
Foreign Office, February 8, 1878.

Sir,

I SHOULD be glad if your Excellency can ascertain whether there is any foundation for a report contained in a telegram from Vienna, published in the "Times" of this day, according to which it has been telegraphed from Tirnova that the surrender of the Turkish flotilla of monitors and other armed steamers on the Danube is included in the stipulations for the evacuation of the river fortresses.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 333.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 101.)
Foreign Office, February 8, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris,* forwarding a copy of a telegram from the Roumanian Government, respecting the demand made by Russia for the retrocession of Bessarabia as far as the Kilia branch of the Danube.

This telegram was communicated to his Excellency on the 6th instant by the Roumanian Agent at Paris.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 334.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.†

(No. 103.)
Foreign Office, February 8, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have given orders for a detachment of the British fleet to proceed to Constantinople for the protection of the life and property of British subjects. It is their wish that you should communicate this information to the Austro-Hungarian Government, and that you should explain the object with which the orders have been given.

You will at the same time invite the Austro-Hungarian Government to cause similar instructions to be sent to the Naval Commander-in-chief in command of the Austro-Hungarian fleet on that station.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 335.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 120.)
Foreign Office, February 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have ordered a detachment of Her Majesty's fleet to proceed to Constantinople for the protection of British life and property.

Your Excellency will inform the Russian Government accordingly, and explain to them the object with which the vessels are sent.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

---

* No. .

† Similar despatches were addressed to Lord Odo Russell and Sir A. Paget.

No. 336.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 127.)
Foreign Office, February 8, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador informed me this afternoon that, in compliance with the request he had transmitted to Prince Gortchakow, the latter was forwarding to him the full text of the bases of peace for communication to Her Majesty's Government and for publication here if desired.

Prince Gortchakow had added that the text would also appear in the Russian newspapers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 337.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 15.)
Foreign Office, February 8, 1878.

Sir,

I APPROVE the language employed by you at an interview with M. Tricoupi, as reported in your despatch No. 33 of the 21st ultimo, relative to the fears of the Ottoman Government that an attack by Greece upon Turkey was imminent.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 338.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 99.)
Foreign Office, February 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I INFORMED your Excellency this day by telegraph at 5 P.M., with reference to your Excellency's telegram dispatched on the 7th instant, at midnight, that Her Majesty's Government had ordered a detachment of the British fleet to proceed to Constantinople for the protection of the lives and property of British subjects.

Your Excellency was at the same time instructed to inform the French Government of Her Majesty's decision, and to express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the Government of France would not hesitate to give similar orders.

The Austrian, German, and Italian Governments have also been invited by Her Majesty's Government to send ships of war to Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 339.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 108.)
Foreign Office, February 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have been informed that the Government of Italy have applied to the Porte for a Firman to enable two Italian iron-clads to enter the Dardanelles.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

---

* Similar despatches were addressed to Sir H. Elliot and Lord Odo Russell.

No. 340.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 182.) *Foreign Office, February 8, 1878.*

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have instructed Admiral Hornby to proceed to Constantinople for the protection of British life and property, with a detachment of Her Majesty's fleet.

I have accordingly to instruct your Excellency to request the Porte to give the necessary orders without delay to the forts.

Her Majesty's Government presume that a further Firman is not required; but you should procure one if you consider it desirable to do so.

I should wish your Excellency to communicate forthwith with the Admiral, who has been ordered to proceed to-morrow afternoon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 341.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.[*]

(En. 77.) *Foreign Office, February 8, 1878.*

Sir,

I INFORMED your Excellency by telegraph to-day at 4·50 P.M., with reference to my other telegram on the same subject, also of to-day's date, that the French Ambassador had intimated to me that his Government had applied to the Porte to grant a Firman to enable two French frigates to pass the Dardanelles.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 342.

The Earl of Derby to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 8, 1878.*

My Lords,

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordships that it has been decided by the Queen and Her Majesty's Government, that a detachment of the fleet under the command of Admiral Hornby, now stationed at Besika Bay, should proceed to Constantinople for the protection of British life and property, and I have to request that your Lordships will cause the necessary orders to be given accordingly.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has been informed that these orders will be given, and instructed to apply to the Porte to give the requisite directions to the Turkish military authorities on the Straits for the passage of Her Majesty's ships; and, if he thinks it desirable, also to apply to the Porte for a further Firman.

His Excellency will communicate with Admiral Hornby immediately upon acting on those instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 343.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 8, 1878.*

Sir,

WITH reference to the letter addressed to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty by the Earl of Derby this day, I am directed by his Lordship to request that you will state to the Board of Admiralty that the French Ambassador has informed his Lordship that his Government have instructed their Representative at Constantinople to apply to the

[*] Similar despatches were addressed to Lord Lyons, Sir H. Elliot, Lord Odo Russell, Mr. Layard, and Lord A. Loftus.

Porte for a Firman for the passage of the Straits of the Dardanelles by two French iron-clads.

I am to add that Lord Derby has also reason to believe that the Italian Government will apply to the Porte for a similar Firman for two Italian iron-clads.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 344.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 120.) *Paris, February 7, 1878.*

My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I communicated to M. Waddington this morning the substance of the intelligence contained in Mr. Layard's telegram of the 5th instant.

I said to him that Mr. Layard reported at night on that date that the Porte was in great alarm; that it had not yet received the Protocol of the bases of peace; that the Russians were in force close to the lines of Bulair and Tchekmedjé, and that their advance was not checked by the armistice. I added that Constantinople appeared to be cut off from telegraphic communication with the rest of Europe except viâ Bombay; and I asked M. Waddington what was the latest intelligence that he had received from Constantinople.

He answered that no intelligence similar to that sent to your Lordship in Mr. Layard's telegram had reached the French Government, with the exception of that relative to the telegraphic line viâ Bombay being the only one open between Constantinople and the rest of Europe. Of this he had been made aware by a private telegram which had been communicated to him.

He added, however, that the latest telegram received by the French Government was only dated the 4th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 345.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 121. Confidential.) *Paris, February 7, 1878.*

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON told me this morning that M. Fournier, the newly-appointed French Ambassador to the Porte, would set out for Constantinople this evening.

M. Waddington asked me to inform your Lordship confidentially that M. Fournier was instructed to place himself on the same footing with England in respect to the question of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus.

In giving these instructions, M. Waddington had, he said, meant that the French Ambassador should support the maintenance of the *status quo* as established by the Treaty of London of the 13th March, 1871.

This he understood to be the view taken by Her Majesty's Government of the question of the Straits, and it was certainly the view which he himself took of it, and which he should be disposed to put forward, at all events in the first place, in any future negotiations.

M. Waddington went on to say that, in fact, any other arrangement, and even the absolute closing of the Straits to all ships-of-war at all times, would leave Constantinople entirely at the mercy of Russia. It seemed, therefore, to him that if the Sultan was to remain at Constantinople, it was essential that, on the one hand, he should have the power to keep the Straits closed as the ordinary rule, and that, on the other hand, he should be at liberty, in a case of emergency, to open them to the ships of friendly Powers coming to his defence.

M. Waddington begged me to explain to your Lordship that M. Fournier was not authorised to make any official communication on the subject, or to give any pledge respecting it on behalf of the French Government. He was simply instructed to shape his

language generally in conformity with the views which M. Waddington had just expressed to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 346.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 122.) *Paris, February 7, 1878.*

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 115 of yesterday, I had the honour to report to your Lordship a communication made to me by M. Callimaki Catargi, respecting the demand conveyed by General Ignatiew to the Roumanian Government for the retrocession of the Roumanian part of Bessarabia.

I learnt from M. Waddington this morning, that M. Callimaki Catargi had made a precisely similar communication to him, and had rather pressed him for information as to the course the French Government would take with regard to the question thus raised by Russia.

M. Waddington told me that in answering M. Catargi he had limited himself to saying that Austria was the Power most directly interested in the navigation of the Danube, and that France must leave to her the initiative in questions relating to that river.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 347.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 123. Very Confidential.) *Paris, February 7, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my Very Confidential despatch No. 103 of the day before yesterday, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Waddington told me this morning that further reflection had confirmed him in the opinion that it was extremely desirable that Prince Gortchakow should be the President of the proposed Conference.

He begged me to communicate to your Lordship his opinion that this object should be kept in view in discussing the preliminary arrangements, and that all that was possible should be done to facilitate the attendance of the Prince.

He added that, in his opinion, if Prince Gortchakow did not attend, it might be regarded as a sure sign that it was not intended by Russia that the Conference should be brought to a successful issue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 348.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 126.) *Paris, February 7, 1878.*

My Lord,

AS soon as possible after I received your Lordship's telegram dated 12·45 P.M. this day, I obtained an interview with M. Waddington, and informed him that in consequence of the occupation by the Russian forces of the lines protecting Constantinople, Her Majesty's Government intended to send ships up to that city for the protection of British subjects. I added that Her Majesty's Government were very anxious to ascertain with the least possible delay whether the French Government was prepared to give orders to the same effect to French ships of war.

M. Waddington said that, expressing only his own personal opinion at the first moment, he did not hesitate to say that he felt inclined to send orders at once to some French ships to go to Constantinople. There were, he said, two French iron-clads at Smyrna, one at Salonica, and one at Syra. The two at Smyrna might, he thought, be despatched immediately. He could not, however, give any positive answer to the question

of Her Majesty's Government until he had conferred with the Marshal President. He would, however, try to see the Marshal in the course of the evening, and to bring me afterwards a definitive answer on the part of the French Government.

He accordingly came to me at night and gave me the definitive answer in the following terms:—

The French Government, he said, considered that it would be necessary to obtain a Firman from the Porte before their ships presented themselves at the Dardanelles. They would therefore send to-night by telegraph to their Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople orders to apply at once for a Firman, and to send them notice by telegraph as soon as he obtained it. The Chargé d'Affaires would be directed to report at the same time upon the actual state of affairs at Constantinople and in its neighbourhood. If upon this report it should appear that the dispatch of the ships would be warrantable, the French Government would send from Paris orders to one or both of the iron-clads now at Smyrna to set out for Constantinople. M. Waddington calculated that the answer of the Chargé d'Affaires might be received by to-morrow evening, and that the orders to the ships might, in case of need, be dispatched after the sitting of the Council of Ministers, which would take place on the morning of the following day, that is to say, as the Council sits very early, that the orders might be sent off in the forenoon of Saturday the 9th.

I had made M. Waddington acquainted with the substance of Mr. Layard's telegrams to your Lordship of the 5th instant, 5 P.M., and the 6th instant, 1 P.M., respecting the movements of the Russian and Servian troops; and I now thought it right to show him your Lordship's telegram, *en clair*, reciting the communication made to you by the Russian Ambassador, and read in both Houses of Parliament this afternoon.

M. Waddington made some observations on the phrase "il n'y a pas mot de vrai dans les rumeurs qui vous sont parvenues;" but he did not make any alteration in the answer he had given to me. On the contrary, he recited it again in the same terms in order to ensure my apprehending it correctly.

He observed, however, that of course the French Government must have information from its own Agents in order to warrant its sending the ships to Constantinople; and that certainly up to the time we were speaking the intelligence from those Agents, if taken by itself, would not suffice to justify the measure.

In conclusion, M. Waddington begged me to ask your Lordship to inform him whether the proposal to send ships-of-war to Constantinople had been made by you to the Italian Government as well as to the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 349.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 127. Confidential.) *Paris, February 8, 1878.*

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON begged me this morning to direct your Lordship's attention to the policy to be pursued with regard to Greece by the Western Powers in the Conference.

The Greek Government had, he said, shown a singular want of common prudence and intelligence in invading the neighbouring provinces of Turkey at this moment, and had certainly not increased the sympathy felt abroad for their claims by this unjustifiable and ill-timed proceeding. Still there was a general feeling in France, and he himself shared in it, that in the settlement of the Eastern question something ought to be done in favour of the Hellenic race, if not of the Kingdom of Greece.

The question was, he went on to say, one of the most difficult and delicate ones which would have to be treated in the Conference. On the one hand, it would certainly be desirable to make of the Greek race, as far as possible, a counterpoise in Turkey to the Slav race, which seemed about to be placed in a pre-eminent position by Russia; while, on the other hand, it would be difficult to promote any considerable advancement of the Greeks without still further weakening the Government of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 350.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 20.) *St. Petersburgh, February* 8, 1878, 5·20 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

TO-DAY'S papers insert an official telegram, already published in Odessa papers, of terms of armistice, according to which Turkish blockade is raised and free navigation established if state of ice permits; Turks will abandon Sulina; also Rustchuk, Silistria, and Widdin, and Russia remove obstructions in Danube following littoral, to be placed in possession of Russian forces from Russian frontier to Baltchik, from Missevri to close to Derkioi, but Russian troops shall only really occupy the ports of Bourgas and Midia in the Sea of Marmora, from Buyuk-Chekmedje to Sharkioi inclusively; on the Ægean from Ursli to Mukri; Turkish railways to be open for every traffic from ports, except military stores.

No. 351.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 14.) *Vienna, February* 8, 1878, 6·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, neither Austrian Government nor the Turkish Ambassador have heard that the Turkish flotilla on the Danube were to be given up when fortresses are abandoned.

No. 352.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, February* 8, 1878, 7·40 P.M.

TERMS of armistice defining districts to be occupied by Russian troops during it, were received here from Grand Duke Nicholas on the 2nd instant, and published the same evening. I regret that I did not telegraph them, but could not have imagined that such intelligence could have been withheld from Her Majesty's Government by the Russian Government when made known here at Odessa.

No. 353.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 162.) *Constantinople, February* 8, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

AS armistice is signed, may I grant Sir A. Kemball leave to come to Constantinople?

No. 354.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 175.) *Pera, February* 8, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Consul Freeman, dated Serajevo, yesterday:—

"Vice-Consul Cooper reports from Novi-Bazar that in spite of armistice Servians continue to advance in neighbourhood of Sjenica."

No. 355.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 176.) *Pera, February* 8, 1878, 6·45 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegrams of yesterday, Russians occupy Chataldja, and have insisted upon the withdrawal of troops from the lines. The guns have been for the most part removed, but lines themselves are in neutral zone, and have not been occupied by Russians. Conditions of armistice sent you yesterday. Judging from fifth Article, monitors and other armed steamers on the Danube would remain under care of Russians, but I will make inquiries on the subject.

No. 356.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 177.) *Constantinople, February* 8, 1878, 7·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

PRIME Minister authorizes me to state officially that if the Porte receives an assurance from one of the Great Powers that the Greek troops shall be withdrawn from Turkish territory it will not resort to hostile measures against Greece. I have this moment received a telegram from Her Majesty's Chargé Affaires at Athens informing me that orders have been given to Greek troops to re-cross the frontier. I have communicated this information to his Highness, and I trust to prevent demonstration intended.

No. 357.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, February* 9, 1878.

PROHIBITION to export grain from South Russian ports has been withdrawn.

No. 358.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 178.) *Pera, February* 8, 1878, 7·15 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE directed Mr. Longworth to make inquiries in Thessaly and Epirus, and have sent Colonel Synge to Macedonia to obtain information required by your Lordship as to populations.

No. 359.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 179.) *Constantinople, February* 9, 1878, 1·45 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH flotilla and ships of war in Danube are to remain where they were when armistice was signed, and to be in care of Russia until peace is signed, when they will be restored to Turkey. This, according to Server Pasha, is provided for by 5th Article of armistice.

No. 360.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 180. Secret.) *Constantinople, February* 9, 1878, 2 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

I WAS informed in a mysterious way, some days ago, that a secret understanding was being brought about between the Khedive and Russia. I did not attach much importance to the communication, but from some information that I have received to-day I think it right to call your Lordship's attention to it.

No. 361.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 181. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, February 9, 1878, 3 P.M.

TURKISH Plenipotentiaries are returned. I saw Server Pasha this morning. His Excellency informs me that Grand Duke Nicholas insists upon preliminaries of peace being signed immediately, and that General Ignatiew is to be at Adrianople to-day or to-morrow. Grand Duke stated that he did not know what those preliminaries were, as he had only obeyed orders from St. Petersburgh, and was not concerned in diplomatic negotiations. His Excellency is convinced that if the Porte makes the slightest difficulty in accepting Russian proposals, Constantinople will be immediately occupied, and head-quarters of Grand Duke are to be moved at once to Silivria with this view. His Excellency believes that the same will occur should the Powers endeavour to modify Russian terms at the Conference. Both he and Prime Minister are much alarmed at idea of a Russian occupation of the capital, as Russian agents might then easily get up disturbances which might lead to serious results.

It is not yet certain whether Server Pasha, who is believed here to be now entirely in the interest of Russia, will return to Adrianople, or whether another Plenipotentiary will be chosen. He is endeavouring to make conditions with Vefyk Pasha. His Excellency tells me that Russians have scarcely left a Mussulman house standing, and Consul Blunt informs me that Cossacks have sacked Turkish quarters in Adrianople, and a large number of farms and villages in the neighbourhood. According to him and three English doctors arrived, the outrages committed upon the Mussulman population are most shocking.

No. 362.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9, 12·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
Rome, February 9, 1878, 10·45 A.M.

IN a telegram received last night, without date but supposed to be in reply to that sent on the 7th instant, Count Corti reports town perfect(ly)? quiet. That Russians only occupied positions agreed upon in armistice, and are not marching on Constantinople or Gallipoli.

No. 363.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9, 2·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
Paris, February 9, 1878, 1 P.M.

FRENCH Government have not yet received an answer from their Chargé d'Affaires, but directly they learn from him that the Firman is granted they will order two iron-clads to go to Constantinople, unless (which they do not in the least expect) the Chargé d'Affaires' report should show that the step would be unadvisable.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs has communicated with the German Government, and thinks it probable that some German ships also will be sent to Constantinople.

He conceives that Italian Government, like the French, is only waiting for the Firman. He believes the Italians to have five ships of war at Salonica.

No. 364.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9, 7·30 P.M.)

(Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Rome, February 9, 1878, 4·30 P.M.

M. DEPRETIS' opinion about some of the conditions of the armistice, is that they amount to moral occupation of Constantinople, but is glad there is not a material one. His Excellency is in favour of maintaining status quo as regards the Straits, to endeavour to maintain Turkey strong enough to be the guard of European interests at Constantinople, and consequently opposed to the cession of Turkish fleet if it should be claimed by Russia

in lieu of pecuniary indemnity; every guarantee to be required for the good government of the Christians. He is also alive to Italian interests in the free navigation of the Danube, but contends that the cession of Bessarabia would not interfere with these, though he would think it a hardship on Roumania, and only to be entertained as an alternative to pecuniary compensation which it would be impossible for Turkey to pay.

I have told M. Depretis of fleet going to Constantinople. He has not yet heard if the Firman for two Italian ships has been granted.

No. 365.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, February 9, 1878.

I LAST night communicated to Count Andrassy your telegram announcing that a portion of Her Majesty's fleet had been ordered to Constantinople, inviting the Austrian Government to adopt a similar measure. Austrian Under-Secretary, whom I have just seen, said he was unable yet to tell me that a decision had been come to, but he added confidentially that he did not doubt that Count Andrassy would give similar orders to Austrian Naval Commanders.

No. 366.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, February 9, 1878, 6·30 P.M.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW'S despatch to the Russian Ambassador about Conference has not yet been communicated to Count Andrassy, who abstains from expressing any decided opinion till he is made acquainted with the reasons given for objecting to Vienna as the place of meeting. Austrian Under-Secretary told me confidentially that he did not think that Count Andrassy would insist on Vienna as a *sine qud non*; but an Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs inviting Conference could not well propose any other place. I said that I had reason to believe that if Vienna were insisted upon Prince Gortchakow would not himself attend, and that Russian Government would be represented by General Ignatiew. I said I was not acquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government, but that I believed they would think it well that Prince Gortchakow's wishes should be considered as far as possible, and that although Her Majesty's Government had supported Count Andrassy's proposal of having the Conference at Vienna, I felt convinced that they would rather see the place changed than that delay or serious difficulty should arise about it. I am unable to say how far Under-Secretary is acquainted with Count Andrassy's disposition on the above question.

No. 367.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, February 9, 1878.

I ADDRESSED yesterday to Prince Gortchakow a note in the words of your Lordship's telegram on advance of Russian armies and possible intention of occupying Constantinople, or its defensive lines; also a note requesting orders to be given to Russian Commanders to secure others from ill-treatment shown to doctors.

Copies of both sent by post.

No. 368.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, February 9, 1878.

FOLLOWING is translation of Prince Gortchakow's answer to my note of yesterday:—

"In answer to your Excellency's note of February 8, respecting occupation of certain strategical points in neighbourhood of Constantinople by the Russian troops in consequence of armistice, it is my duty to inform you that we are not yet in possession of positive information as to details of Convention of Armistice and as to its application. I should add that the military line of demarcation traced previously to the armistice has been agreed upon between the Russian and Turkish authorities, and that it is a question which exclusively concerns the belligerents."

No. 369.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 23.) *St. Petersburgh, February 9, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW, in his reply to me regarding ill-treatment of English doctors, refutes possibility of Emperor's humane orders being infringed; recalls previous calumnies of similar nature publicly refuted by impartial witnesses, among whom were British subjects; requests to be furnished with more precise information, to be referred to military authorities, and expresses his regret and surprise that vague charges, unsupported by any proof or even data as to names, place, dates, or facts, can form subject of a correspondence between Governments.

No. 370.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Foreign Office, February 9, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

CONSUL FREEMAN reports that Servians continue to advance in the neighbourhood of Sjenica.

Have you any information on the subject?

No. 371.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Foreign Office, February 9, 1878.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to state to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that a telegram has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador in Rome, dated yesterday, Friday, which states that the Italian Government, on learning from the French Ambassador that his Government had applied to the Porte for a firman for the two ships to pass the Dardanelles to protect French interests in Constantinople, had instructed their Representative at the Porte to take a similar step for permission for two Italian iron-clads to pass the Dardanelles with a view to the protection of Italian interests.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 372.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 9, 1878.*

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris telegraphs at 1 P.M. to-day to the effect that so soon as the French Government learn from their Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople that the firman is granted for the entry of French ships into the Dardanelles, orders will be issued for two iron-clads to proceed to Constantinople,

unless, which is not at all anticipated, it should appear from the French Chargé d'Affaires' report that such a step would be unadvisable.

Lord Lyons further reports that the French Government think it probable that the German Government, with whom they have been in communication, will also send ships to Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 373.

Vice-Consul Billotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 19. Political.) *Trebizond, January 22, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that on Saturday last there was a general meeting of all the Softas, the Beys, and the principal Mussulman merchants of Trebizond, in which the state of affairs was discussed.

About forty of the persons present expressed the opinion that, as between 40,000 and 50,000 men, irrespective of the recruits now enrolled, could be levied in this Vilayet and in the Mutessariflik of Samsoon, they should be called to arms to oppose the advance of the Russians, and that the Beys should undertake the task to collect the volunteers.

All the assembly shared this view; when an old Bey, Ahin Aga Kahiayoglu, who had not uttered a word, was asked for his opinion.

He said he did not believe that the number of men who could be levied would amount to more than half that reckoned upon; that, for his share, he answered to enrol 2,000 volunteers, and that even 20,000 or 25,000 men would be a strong force. But that modern warfare was different from what it used to be, and that to oppose volunteers armed with matchlocks to regulars in possession of breech-loaders would be sending the former to certain destruction. That unless an adequate number of Martinis with ammunition, as well as clothing for the men and subsidies for the families of the destitute among them, were provided, he considered all resistance hopeless. Under these circumstances, he thought that the only wise thing to do was to welcome the Russians should they ever march so far down as Trebizond.

The meeting dissolved without coming to a decision, and the day following a limited number of Mussulmans assembled again, but the decision they came to is not yet known.

However, the opinion expressed within the last two days, and which may be considered as being the consequence of the last meeting, is that, although wishing for peace, the Mussulmans here are not prepared to accept whatever conditions may be imposed by the Russians.

I detect, in my last conversations with Mussulmans of all classes, that they do not object to concessions in the European provinces; in fact, they consider Bulgaria as lost to them, and expect concessions to Roumania, Montenegro, even to Servia, but they say that rather than conceding a foot of ground here, they will fight to the last. They refer not only to Batoum, but also to Kars and Ardahan.

The last opinion expressed to me is that they would prefer to be utterly crushed by war, rather than submit to a cession of territory in Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILLOTTI.

No. 374.

Vice-Consul Billotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 20. Political.) *Trebizond, January 22, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, the details which I have been able to collect from trustworthy sources on the incidents which took place at Kars after its fall.

The town was allowed to be plundered for three days. I was told by an eye-witness, Dr. Rasenthall, an Austrian surgeon in the Turkish service, whose statement was confirmed

to the Austrian Consul here by six other surgeons of his nation and one German, that the hospitals were not spared.

The sick and wounded, without exception, were searched and deprived of the little money or other valuables in their possession. After having swallowed every drinkable liquid, glycerine included, the Russian soldiers destroyed all the medicines in the hospitals. The surgeons themselves were robbed of everything they possessed. One of them lying ill in his room met with an identical treatment.

On observations being made it was stated that the plunder of the hospitals had taken place in consequence of shots having been fired from their windows on the Russian troops, an assertion emphatically denied by the Austrian surgeons, who happened to be in them at the time.

My informant witnessed the plundering of the Persian Consulate, from which every article of furniture, bedding included, was carried away. However, the Persian flag had been hoisted, and was flying at the time over the Consulate.

On my hinting that of course the Christians (Armenians) had not shared the same treatment as the Mussulmans, he stated that the Russians themselves, that, is the Christian soldiers, had not pillaged their co-religionists' houses, but that the Circassians and the Kara Kapaks belonging to the Russian army had plundered the Armenians, so that in one way or another the whole population of Kars, without distinction of race or creed, was subjected to the same treatment.

All the reports which I have heard agree that no violence was offered to women or girls, whether Mussulmans or Christians.

The surgeons in question state that all the Turkish soldiers who were seriously sick or wounded were allowed to remain in the hospitals. They were offered themselves to continue their service under the Russians, which proposal, having declined to accept, they were allowed to leave via Batoum.

Between 2,000 and 3,000 Turkish prisoners, who were slightly wounded or sick, were given one and a half rouble each, and turned out of Kars. I have heard from a very reliable source that of these hardly 400 have reached Erzeroum.

However, it cannot be concluded that the missing sick or wounded have all died on the road. Many may have stopped in intermediate villages, or taken another direction than that of Erzeroum.

I avail myself of my reporting on the incidents which have occurred in a town captured by the Russians, to inclose copy of a letter dated 13th October last, from the Austrian Consul of this place to myself, relative to what took place at Ardahan.

A doubt having been expressed to me as to the accuracy of the information which I had transmitted in my despatch to your Lordship No. 35 of the 10th July last, I had begged my Austrian colleague to put in writing, for my own satisfaction, what he had stated verbally to me at the time, and which had been subsequently confirmed to him by an eye-witness, and I consider the present a fit opportunity to convey its contents to your Lordship's knowledge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 374.

M. Kwiatowski to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

Trebizond, October 18, 1877.

My dear Sir,

AS you told me that the fact of the firing of the Russians on the hospital at Ardahan seems to have been contradicted by some parties, I availed myself of the presence of Dr. S. Adler, formerly of the Austrian army, who happened to be at Ardahan in the service of the Porte, to ascertain the truth of the report of Dr. Gauntley, of Erzeroum, on the subject, which I communicated to you about three months ago. The following are the very words in which Dr. Adler related to me the incident in question:—

"I was attached as physician to the Military Hospital at Ardahan some time before the Russians attacked the place.

"Our hospital was formerly a barrack—a ground-floor building facing on three sides the road leading to the bridge.

"When the Turks were beaten and fled before the Cossacks, they had to pass in front of our hospital; in doing so every single Cossack fired his pistol through the windows, compelling Dr. A. Weiss, Dr. Epaminondas Boy, Dr. Evangheline, two Turkish assistants, and two apothecaries and myself to lay flat on the ground in order to avoid the bullets which were striking on all sides.

"We remained in that position for about two hours. I had for my part my head between the legs of Dr. Epaminondas, and all such patients as could move had taken shelter under their beds.

"The white flag was flying all the while on the hospital, and besides sick and wounded there were no other Turkish soldiers in it.

"Dr. Epaminondas and Evangheline were so frightened that they fled to Erzeroum, leaving Dr. A. Weiss and myself to take care of the hospital.

"Subsequently I asked the Russian head surgeon, who was at the same time member of the Geneva Convention, how it was that the Russian soldiers were allowed to fire in an hospital, and to sack a captured town, to which he answered that the Geneva Convention had no value in these parts.

"Shortly after the capture of Ardahan the Grand Duchess sent her own physician to inquire into the wants of the wounded and sick Russians, as well as Turks, and provided all requisites.

"We were allowed to remain at Ardahan until such time as the patients were able to move, and were kindly treated all the while—about two months—an escort being provided at the departure, and Dr. Weiss and myself even receiving one month's salary."

Believe, &c.
(Signed) KWIATOWSKI,
Austrian and Hungarian Consul.

No. 375.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 92. Secret.)

Rome, February 1, 1878.

My Lord,

IN my interview with M. Depretis the day before yesterday, I read to his Excellency Mr. Layard's telegram No. 132 of the 29th ultimo, in which he states the impossibility of the Porte obtaining any answer from their Plenipotentiaries as to the signature of the armistice and the bases of peace, and I took the liberty of observing that this fact, coupled with the continued advance of the Russians upon Constantinople, appeared to me to demonstrate very clearly their intention of seizing it.

To this M. Depretis replied, in a very decided tone: "This must never be permitted."

It seemed to me, therefore, that this exclamation offered a favourable opportunity of endeavouring to ascertain what was to be expected from Italy in an extreme case.

I, therefore, said that if the occupation of Constantinople appeared to his Excellency so objectionable, would he suggest any course by which it might be prevented. His Excellency's reply was to the effect that it was almost to be regretted that the British fleet had not gone up there. To this I answered that, besides British interests, there were European and, as I always understood from his Excellency, Italian interests to be defended at Constantinople.

Now, I continued, I should like to ask his Excellency one question, and that was whether, in the event of the Russians entering Constantinople and showing a disposition to remain there, Italy would join England in employing force to drive them out.

M. Depretis seemed hardly prepared for the question, and he said that, as it was one which involved the question of a war with Russia, he could hardly be expected to answer it off hand. He went on to say he still trusted the case would not arise, that the Emperor and the Russian Government had given their word that Constantinople should not be "acquired," but he again repeated that "it must not be permitted."

In following up the discussion, M. Depretis, in reply to a remark of mine, observed that after all the assistance which Italy could give to England would not be of much importance, to which I said I presumed that if England decided on active measures we should not stand alone. That certainly Austria had a most important interest in this question, and that if Italy was disposed to join the alliance her contribution towards it would certainly not be despised, and that fighting on the side of England and Austria, Italy would certainly find herself in very respectable company.

M. Depretis said he quite admitted this, that the question we were discussing was of the very deepest concern to Italian interests. He regarded those interests as identical with those of England, especially in regard to the settlement respecting the navigation of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus.

This conversation was of an unofficial character, and came after that which had taken place in reference to the communication I had made to his Excellency respecting the reservation of the Treaty rights of Europe, with regard to any arrangements which might be made by the Russian and Turkish Delegates, reported in my despatch No. 84 of the 30th ultimo.

The conversation of this morning, however, and of which I have just sent your Lordship the substance by telegraph, was formal.

M. Depretis having inquired if I had any news of the war, I read to his Excellency, in the first place, your Lordship's two telegrams of yesterday's date relative to the declaration made by Prince Gortchakow to Lord A. Loftus that the article in the conditions of peace communicated to your Lordship by Count Schouvaloff, to the effect that an ulterior arrangement for safeguarding the rights and interests of Russia in regard to the Straits was to be come to between the Emperor and the Sultan, was vague and unnecessary, and might be suppressed; a declaration at which M. Depretis expressed his satisfaction.

I then read to his Excellency Mr. Layard's telegram of the 30th, repeated in your Lordship's telegram of the 31st, in which his Excellency mentions that the Russians continue to advance on all sides.

M. Depretis replied that he had received the same news, and he had almost arrived at the conviction that it was the fixed purpose of Russia to enter Constantinople. His Excellency proceeded to say that he should regard their doing so, even if their remaining was only temporary, as most seriously menacing to the interests of the Western Powers, especially to Italy and England, whose interests, again he emphatically declared, he considered as identical in this question.

His Excellency agreed that the settlement of the Straits question would then be practically in the hands of Russia, notwithstanding the assurance of Prince Gortchakow that it was not the intention of Russia to resolve it "isolément;" and I then asked M. Depretis, though I stated that I made the inquiry without instructions, whether the Italian Government would join England in resisting it.

His Excellency reminded me that I had put to him the same question two days ago. It was his desire, he said, to act entirely with England; but he deemed that, in order to prevent the Russians entering Constantinople, or to make them withdraw from it, the concert of Austria and, if possible, of France would be indispensable. His Excellency asked me if I knew what were the dispositions of France, and whether Her Majesty's Government could thoroughly rely upon Austria.

I answered that, as far as my information went, I thought that there was little disposition on the part of France to abandon her policy of reserve; but that I knew that Her Majesty's Government had been in the most confidential communication with the Government of Austria, and that I believed they were confident of her co-operation in certain given circumstances.

M. Depretis again said that he should think such co-operation absolutely essential, for if the alliance between the three Emperors was still in force, Italy might run very serious dangers.

He believed, however, that if Austria was ready to act with England, there need be no fear of Germany. At all events, he said, it was impossible to wait for Prince Bismarck's decisions. The crisis was pressing, it was necessary to agree upon some course of policy, and to follow it out at once.

I repeated what I had previously said about Austria, but I added that one of the reasons why her Majesty's Government had recently ordered the fleet to Constantinople was in order to protect the lives, &c., of British subjects. There were, I said, an immense number of Italians in Constantinople also. Would not the Italian Government, I inquired, if we sent up our fleet, send theirs also, independently of what Austria did? Based on the grounds I had just mentioned it need not necessarily lead to a war with Russia.

His Excellency reiterated his former expressions as to the necessity of having the concert of Austria; but he admitted the immense importance of there being some protection for Italian lives and property at Constantinople, adding that he had already despatched the Italian fleet to Turkish waters, Salonica, &c. All he could say now, however, in reference to my last question, was that he begged for the most frequent, immediate, and frank communications with Her Majesty's Government, which he promised to reciprocate.

His Excellency then proceeded to say that he was expecting to see the French Ambassador this afternoon, and he should endeavour to ascertain the views of the French Government, and point out the desirability of the Western Powers acting together.

In answer to an inquiry of mine, his Excellency admitted that he was not without a certain misgiving that there might possibly be a secret understanding between the Turks and Russians respecting the occupation of Constantinople. In this event, no matter of how temporary a nature the occupation might be, he believed that the rule of Turkey in Europe would have come to an end; and in such a case he thought it behoved Italy and England, and, indeed, all the other Powers, to come to an agreement as to how the Turks were to be replaced by something which was not Russian.

I then informed M. Depretis of the telegram from Count Andrassy to Count Beust in reference to the communication which had taken place between the former and Count Robillant to the effect that in the opinion of the Austro-Hungarian Government the questions of territorial modifications and of the Straits ought to be settled with the concurrence of the Signatory Powers, and that Count Andrassy having explained to his Excellency the Austrian standpoint, had no doubt that the Cabinet of Rome would accept it.

M. Depretis said that there had been this communication between Count Robillant and Count Andrassy, and that the result of it had been correctly stated. The Italian Government were quite agreed on the principle; it was only a question with them whether it would be expedient at this moment to make such a declaration at St. Petersburgh. It might, perhaps, have an irritating effect, and egg on Russia to further extremes, which it was the interest of all to avoid. It was the consideration of this point which had delayed his answering my note, but his Excellency said he would send his reply as soon as possible, perhaps to-night or to-morrow morning.

My impression from M. Depretis' language is that if Austria and France are prepared to act with England, or even Austria alone, for preventing the Russians occupying Constantinople, or for driving them out, we may rely upon the co-operation of Italy for this purpose, and I will not say that they will not act with us alone, in so far as sending their fleet with ours to Constantinople, but of this I do not feel sufficiently sure to justify my mentioning it in the telegram which I have just sent to your Lordship reporting the substance of the conversation I have just had with M. Depretis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 376.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 94. Very Confidential.)
Rome, February 3, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to receive this morning your Lordship's telegram, dated yesterday at 4·55 P.M., stating that Her Majesty's Government had received with great satisfaction the report, contained in my telegram of the 1st instant, of the language held by M. Depretis, that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to act with Italy and Austria, and with France, if the latter Power desires it; that they believe that the sincerity of Austria may be relied on, as Austrian interests are deeply concerned; that in the event of a Russian entry or attempted entry into Constantinople, the presence of a combined fleet would be extremely desirable; and inquiring whether, in the case alluded to, the Italian Government would be prepared to act with that of England.

I have just had an interview with M. Depretis, in which I read this telegram to his Excellency; but, before doing so, I thought it desirable to read to him the one which I addressed to your Lordship on the 1st instant, to which it is in answer.

M. Depretis stated that I had correctly reported his language to your Lordship, and assented to the conclusions which I had drawn from it; but he would have been glad if I had omitted any mention of Prince Bismarck, as he had not intended to imply that he did not attach importance to his Highness's decisions; to which I replied that I was sure it would not be understood in this way, but only as showing how anxious he (M. Depretis) was to come to an immediate agreement with Her Majesty's Government upon the course of policy to be followed by the two Governments. I had marked, I said, my telegram "Secret," and his Excellency might be sure that it would be so considered. With this assurance M. Depretis expressed himself quite satisfied.

With regard to the inquiry as to whether the Italian Government would be prepared, under the circumstances specified, to send the Italian fleet with that of Her Majesty to Constantinople, M. Depretis said that the signature of the armistice, which had been

communicated to him last night by the Russian Ambassador, suspended the necessity of taking any decision upon this point.

"But," continued his Excellency, "it is still necessary that we (Italy and England) should come to an agreement as to our policy."

Thereupon I read to his Excellency your Lordship's two telegrams to Sir Henry Elliot of yesterday's date, relative to the holding of a Conference at Vienna.

M. Depretis at once replied that he was quite ready to agree to such a proposition, and, in authorizing me to make this announcement to your Lordship, he again expressed a desire for establishing a complete understanding with Her Majesty's Government as to the policy to be upheld there.

I then inquired if his Excellency was prepared to state at once what were the principal points on which he thought it especially desirable to establish this understanding. M. Depretis replied that there were three points which occurred to him at this moment.

First, the question of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus; this he considered the most important for both countries.

I asked his Excellency if he had settled what, in his mind, would be the best arrangement. He said that he had not, but, if it could be obtained, he thought the maintenance of the *statu quo* would be the most desirable. But, in reply to a further inquiry of mine, he stated that any arrangement which might appear acceptable to Her Majesty's Government he should be prepared to agree to. He added, "Je serais presque prêt à souscrire aveuglement tout ce que le Gouvernement Anglais jugera dans ses intérêts d'agréer."

The second point, mentioned by M. Depretis, was that none of the Great Powers should obtain an increase of territory by the territorial changes to be made in European Turkey.

His Excellency observed that he did not mean to oppose any such arrangement as the retrocession to Russia of the part of Bessarabia taken from her in 1856, if this was thought desirable; but what he meant to establish was the principle that none of the Great Powers were to profit by the despoils of Turkey.

Your Lordship will, of course, at once understand that the object of M. Depretis is to prevent Austria annexing either Bosnia or Herzegovina. I do not believe there would be the same objection to an extension of Austria in any other direction, for instance, Turkish Croatia.

M. Depretis' proposal, however, would appear to afford a sufficient proof that the Italian Government themselves do not entertain any projects of territorial acquisitions in Albania, so often attributed to them of late.

In regard to the third point, viz., that the conditions of the peace should be such as to afford the prospect of durability, M. Depretis' meaning, as I gathered it from the conversation which followed, is, that if the territorial arrangements which are sketched out in the bases, such as they are as yet known, if Servia and Montenegro are to be made independent, and are to receive additions of territory, if Bulgaria is to be brought to Adrianople, there would, in point of fact, remain very little, if anything of Turkey in Europe, and the authority of the Sultan would extend over so limited a space, and be so enfeebled, that it could hardly be maintained, unless under the vassalage of Russia. There would, therefore, be the prospect of the re-opening, possibly within the space of a very few years, of the whole Eastern question, and it would, under these circumstances, perhaps be better, in M. Depretis' opinion, to make some arrangement at once which should at all events prevent what was left of Turkey, with the important position of Constantinople, falling into the hands of the Slavs, or, in other words, of Russia; and his Excellency's idea evidently is that, if things should come to such a pass, the Greek element would be the best to oppose to the Slav.

M. Depretis, before my leaving him, again expressed his wish for the most unreserved communication with Her Majesty's Government, in order that the general principles of the policy of the two Governments might be shaped upon the same lines at the Conference.

His Excellency is under the impression, from recent communications from Berlin, that Prince Bismarck's influence will be exerted with Russia in favour of moderation in the negotiations for the conclusion of peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 377.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 98.)
My Lord, *Rome, February* 4, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 85 of 30th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of the answer which I have received from the Italian Government, stating that while agreeing in principle that questions regulated by Treaty cannot be modified without the sanction of the Powers parties to the Treaty, they nevertheless consider that the declarations already made by the Russian Government would seem to set aside the necessity for a departure from the reserve which the Italian Government have hitherto maintained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 377.

M. Depretis to Sir A. Paget.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Rome, February* 3, 1878.

IN your note of the 30th ultimo, your Excellency informed me, by order of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that Her Majesty's Government, while recognizing as binding between the two belligerents every agreement made by the Russian and Turkish Delegates for the conclusion of an armistice and for the settlement of bases of peace, nevertheless declare that, in so far as those arrangements might be calculated to modify European Treaties and to affect general and British interests, they are unable to recognize in them any validity, unless they are made the subject of a formal agreement among the Powers who were Contracting Parties to the Treaty of Paris.

Your Excellency added in your note that Her Majesty's Government hoped that this view of the case, which is entirely based upon Treaties, and especially upon the Treaty of London of 1871, will receive the assent of the other Powers; and in delivering to me this note, your Excellency expressed the desire that I should inform you of the views of the King's Government upon this proposal.

Wishing to accede to the desire of your Excellency, I am glad to inform you that it is also the opinion of His Majesty's Government that, in principle, questions regulated by a Treaty between several Powers cannot form the subject of subsequent agreements binding on all of them without the sanction of the Contracting Parties themselves; but, on the other hand, the declarations which the Russian Government has already made on this subject to some other Governments, and of which also your Excellency has informed me, would seem to exclude, as far as concerns us, the necessity of departing from the reserve in which it has hitherto appeared to us advantageous to hold ourselves.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) DEPRETIS.

No. 378.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 100. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, February* 4, 1878.

ANXIOUS to do everything in my power to secure the assent of the Italian Government to the principle that any arrangement made between Russia and Turkey affecting European Treaties would not be recognized, unless they received the formal agreement of the Powers parties to those Treaties, as directed in your Lordship's telegram of the previous day, I called, after my interview with M. Depretis, reported in my despatch No. 86 of the 30th ultimo, on Count Tornielli, who told me at once that he thought there was little chance of my receiving a reply to my note so speedily as I had been led to expect by M. Depretis.

Count Tornielli said that the Italian Government could hardly return an answer to this communication, until they had ascertained the views of the other Powers who occupied the same position as Italy in regard to the Treaties and the war as Italy did herself.

I inquired what he meant by this.

He replied that in 1856 England, Austria, and France had made a separate Treaty, binding themselves to guarantee the independence and integrity of the Turkish Empire. Italy and Germany, he said, had not been parties to this Treaty, and, consequently, their obligations towards Turkey were not so stringent as those of these first-named Powers.

I replied that nevertheless Italy had been a party to the general Treaty, by which each of the Powers bound itself to respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire. This, however, I said, was not the question under discussion. That question was, as I had stated to M. Depretis, whether, when several Powers had made a Treaty which was equally binding on all of them, two of these Powers had the right to set aside its stipulations by private arrangements between themselves. If the Italian Government admitted this principle, I said, it appeared to me that they might as well abstain from putting their signature to any Treaties at all.

Count Tornielli again sustained his theory that Italy stood in a different position from England towards Turkey. The interests of England were of the first order, he said; those of Italy, though great, were second to those of England; but besides this, there were considerations of general policy which made it difficult for the Italian Government to take any important step without consulting some of the others Powers, especially Germany.

I replied that everyone understood the importance which Italy must attach to the friendship of Germany, but I should be sorry to think that the dependence of Italy on Germany was so great that the Italian Government would not take a decision on so simple a matter as this without referring to Berlin.

Count Tornielli said that he must, of course, be understood as expressing only his own views, and that I must be guided by what I had heard or might hear from the Minister.

I said I was glad of this; but I thought it incumbent upon me nevertheless, after this conversation, to send your Lordship a telegram, saying that I believed the answer of the Italian Government to my note of the 30th, and upon all important matters of foreign policy, would be chiefly guided by what was said at Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 379

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 101.) *Rome, February 6, 1878.*

My Lord,

M. DEPRETIS informed me in an interview I had with him yesterday, that the Greek Chargé d'Affaires has made him a communication from his Government, which appeared to be a sort of proclamation to the effect that it was impossible for the Greek Government to remain indifferent spectators of the scenes taking place in Thessaly and Epirus, where their countrymen and co-religionists were exposed to the greatest dangers from the Mussulman irregular soldiery, &c., and that they had consequently determined on marching troops into those provinces for the protection of the Greek inhabitants. In doing this, however, the Greek Government disavowed any intention of declaring or making war on Turkey.

I asked M. Depretis what reply he had made to this communication, to which his Excellency replied, "none whatever."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 380.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 106.) *Rome, February 8, 1878.*

My Lord,

M. DEPRETIS informed me, in an interview I have just had with him, that he had accepted the formal invitation to the Conference to be held at Vienna, which he had received yesterday from the Austrian Ambassador.

His Excellency, in answer to an inquiry I made, stated that he was not aware how the Conference was to be composed, whether the Ministers for Foreign Affairs would be invited to attend, or when it was proposed that the Conference should meet.

On these points M. Depretis said he understood he should receive a further communication from the Austro-Hungarian Government.

From what fell from his Excellency I gathered that he would be prepared to attend the Conference if the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the other Powers did so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 381.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 107. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, February 5, 1878.*

IN a conversation which I have just had with M. Depretis, I alluded again, for the purpose of obtaining further elucidation, to some of the points which were mentioned in our interview on the day before yesterday, as reported in my despatch No. 94 of that date.

I said I presumed I was not wrong in the impression that his Excellency had in his mind the annexation by Austria of Bosnia and Herzegovina when he spoke of his desire that none of the Great Powers should gain any territorial acquisitions by the arrangements of the peace.

His Excellency having assented to this, I said that I had gathered in conversations which I had occasionally had with his Excellency's predecessor and Count Tornielli that the Italian Government would not feel the same objection to the extension of Austria in another direction, for instance, Turkish Croatia.

M. Depretis replied that any territorial aggrandizement of Austria would produce a bad effect in Italy; "it would not lead to war or to complications," were his Excellency's words, "but it would be an obstacle to that cordiality in the relations between the two countries, which it is the sincere wish of the Italian Government to maintain; and," his Excellency added, "he did not believe it would conduce to the strength of, or be in any way beneficial to Austria."

To this I answered that I was under the impression that Austria, like England, would go into Conference with the purpose of saving as much as possible of the Turkish Empire, and that, under those circumstances, it was little to be expected that she would make annexations herself, in which view M. Depretis said he agreed.

I then said I believed I was right in supposing that the Italian Government would enter the Conference upon the same principles, viz., that of endeavouring to obtain a modification (*adoucir*) of the terms of peace, as far as they were known, to which his Excellency also assented, but he begged me at the same time to take note that the Italian Government could not oppose Russia in obtaining proper guarantees for the good government of the Christian populations of Turkey.

I replied that I was convinced there would be perfect agreement on this point with Her Majesty's Government, who certainly was quite as desirous as any other Government was, or could be, for the just and proper treatment of the Christian races, but means could probably be found for securing this end without lopping off whole Provinces from the Sultan's dominions.

M. Depretis replied that it was certainly of great importance that Turkey should not be so enfeebled as to make her too weak to be the fit guardian of the interests of Europe at Constantinople. Should such be the case it would be better, he said, to endeavour to agree at once upon a *solution radicale*. His Excellency said, however, that he should prefer not to say anything more on this point until the terms of the armistice and basis of peace were before him, and he had not yet received them.

M. Depretis then said that he had great hopes of the Conference resulting in peace. Although he acknowledged that the speech which the telegraph reports as having been addressed by the Czar to his troops was not quite reassuring. He inquired most anxiously whether I thought the credit demanded by Her Majesty's Government would be voted by the House of Commons, and on my saying I felt confident it would be, by a large majority, his Excellency expressed his satisfaction at hearing it, adding, "Quand on va en Conférence il est toujours bon d'avoir un peu d'argent en poche." To which I replied that if his Excellency's hopes of peace were disappointed I trusted I should still find him

in the same sentiments which he had recently expressed, and that Italy would be prepared to act in defence of our common interests. To this M. Depretis answered "Faites voter vos subsides."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 382.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 108.) *Rome, February* 5, 1878.

My Lord,

M. DEPRETIS informed me to-day that he had heard from Constantinople that the Porte had ordered 8,000 troops to proceed to Thessaly and 10,000 to Candia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 383.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 111.) *Rome, February* 7, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE just seen M. Depretis, and having read to him Mr. Layard's telegram of the 5th instant stating that the Russians were in force close to the lines of Constantinople and Gallipoli; that the bases of peace had not yet been received; and that the armistice does not stop the Russian advance. I enquired of his Excellency, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, whether the Italian Government had received any similar intelligence.

His Excellency replied that he had not, and immediately sent for Count Tornielli, whom he directed to telegraph at once to Count Corti to make enquiries on the subject.

Having asked his Excellency what course I was to state to your Lordship that he would suggest should be followed in the event of the above news being confirmed, or of the Russians being, as the telegraph agency here reports is asserted by some of the London papers, actually within the lines of the fortification of Constantinople, M. Depretis replied that the event would be of so grave a nature, that the only thing he could now say was that in his opinion the Powers should settle together what conduct they should pursue ("devraient reflechir ensemble sur la conduite à tenir.")

His Excellency added that he well foresaw the immense effect which this intelligence, if true, would produce upon public opinion in England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 384.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 135.) *Paris, February* 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED late last evening your Lordship's instruction to inform the French Minister for Foreign Affairs that orders had been given for a detachment of Her Majesty's fleet to go up to Constantinople for the protection of British life and property, and that Her Majesty's Government hoped that the French Government would not hesitate to give similar orders.

I sent immediately to M. Waddington the autograph letter, a copy of which is inclosed herewith, and I went to see him this morning, directly after his return from the Council of Ministers.

He thanked me for my letter, and went on to tell me that the answer from the French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople had not yet arrived. It was, however, probable that intelligence would be received from him in the course of the day. So soon as the French Government were informed that the Firman had been granted, orders would be sent to two of the French iron-clads now in the Levant to go up to Constantinople immediately for

the protection of the French there. The necessary understanding had been already come to with the Minister of Marine respecting these orders, and they would be sent at once, unless, indeed, the report of the Chargé d'Affaires should show that it would be unadvisable to dispatch the ships; but this, M. Waddington went on to say, was not in the least likely.

M. Waddington told me that he conceived that the Italian Government was in the same position as the French, that is to say, that it was ready to send two ships to Constantinople, and was only waiting to hear that the Firman was granted. He understood that the Italians had five ships-of-war at Salonica.

Finally, he said that he had been in communication with the German Government, and that he thought it likely that some German ship or ships-of-war might also go up to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 384.

Lord Lyons to M. Waddington.

Paris, February 8, 1878.

My dear Minister,

WITH reference to our conversation of last night I hasten to inform you that a detachment of the fleet has been ordered by Her Majesty's Government to go to Constantinople for the protection of British life and property, and Her Majesty's Government desire me to express to you their hope that the French Government will not hesitate to give orders to the same effect.

A similar request has been addressed by Her Majesty's Government to the Governments of Italy and other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 385.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received February* 10.)

Admiralty, February 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Derby, that the following telegram was yesterday sent in cypher to Vice-Admiral Hornby to Besika Bay, viz.:—

"Proceed if possible to-morrow afternoon with the 'Alexandria,' 'Temeraire,' 'Swiftsure,' 'Achilles,' 'Ruby,' and 'Salamis,' to Constantinople to protect life and property of British subjects. Ambassador is requested to ask Porte to give necessary orders immediately to the forts, and to procure further firman if desirable. He has been told you are ordered to proceed to-morrow afternoon, and desired to communicate with you. Acknowledge."

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 386.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received February* 10.)

Admiralty, February 10, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you, for the information of Earl Derby, copy of a telegram received from Admiral Hornby off Koumkale, dated Saturday, the 9th February, 9·30 P.M.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 386.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Off Koumkale, February 9, 1878, 9·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

GOVERNOR Dardanelles has not received instructions for ships to pass, and protests against their doing so. Have anchored off entrance. "Salamis" is at Chanak waiting for telegraphic communication.

No. 387.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received February 10.)

Admiralty, February 10, 1878.

THE Secretary of the Admiralty presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and begs to transmit herewith the copy of a telegram received in cypher from Vice-Admiral Hornby, dated Besika, 10th February, 9 A.M.

Inclosure in No. 387.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Besika, February 10, 1878, 9 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

SENT "Salamis" to Chanak yesterday and weighed with ships ordered at 6 P.M., when inside Koumkaleh "Salamis" returned. No telegraphic communication from Ambassador. No Firman and Pasha protests against squadron entering. Anchored below Koumkaleh for night. At 1 A.M. Pasha received answer from Constantinople, "No request made" by British Ambassador to Porte contrary to Treaty for "squadron (?) to enter. Pasha to enforce Treaty." Have returned Besika Bay. No telegraphic communication yet from Ambassador.

Am I to proceed by night with ships named or to force passage by day with whole squadron? Squadron insufficient to begin the * at once could be to pass the two lower forts and silence Medjidieh first, then return and silence the lower ones . . . if passage is to be kept open. Request instructions.

No. 388.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 182.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, February 9, 1878.

GREEK Minister has not yet received instructions to inform Porte that order has been given to Greek troops to withdraw from Turkish territory, but has only been informed that it is probable that they will be withdrawn. Turkish Prime Minister authorizes me to state that if the promise of Greek Government to withdraw troops be given through English and French Governments, all military operations against Greece will be at once stopped; but he insists that order be extended to irregular armed bands, and suggests that the Greek Government could send officers to assist in making them retire across frontier. Some iron-clads with troops will be sent to Volo at once, but only for protection of Turkish territory and subjects. His Highness promises me that no demonstration will be made off Greek coasts if Greece is really ready to fulfil promise given to Her Majesty's Government and France; but if it is not fulfilled, hostile measures will be taken. His Highness further promises me, but not officially, that he will send a trustworthy Governor to Thessaly, will remove irregulars, and take every possible measure for the protection of the Christians.

---

* Unintelligible.

No. 389.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 183.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople February 9, 1878, 10 P.M.

MILITARY ATTACHÉ at Gallipoli reports that there are now 22,000 troops in the lines, of which 300 cavalry, and 89 guns and 6 mortars, with their full complement of gunners.

No. 390.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 184.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, February 9, 1878, 6·45 P.M.

LONGWORTH telegraphs that Greek troops, with cannon, have occupied the plains of Ferditscha, where he had himself seen them. The Mussulman inhabitants have all retired into the town. Engagements with brigands have taken place near Volo and Donuck, and some villages have been burnt.

Very few Turkish troops available.

No. 391.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 185. Most Secret.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, February 9, 1878.

I HAVE seen a minute of a conversation between Grand Duke Nicholas and Server Pasha, communicated to the Sultan, substance of which is as follows:—

His Imperial Highness said that the climate of Adrianople not agreeing with him, he was going to Silivria to reside. Preliminaries of peace were to be signed at once, to prevent England and Austria interfering, although Turkey had nothing to hope for from those Powers, as Russia was preparing 300,000 men to act against Austria. If they interfered there might be a general massacre of Mussulmans, which Russia could not prevent. Russian armies would have to remain in Turkey in Europe for at least one year after conclusion of peace.

Russia desired to detach Turkey from Western Powers, and to have alliance with her and Germany. She would do everything in her power to prevent English fleet from appearing before Constantinople. His Imperial Highness had learnt that disturbances were apprehended at Constantinople; if they occurred he would enter at once. He expressed strong disapproval of new Ministry with Vofyk Pasha at its head. For four years past there had been an understanding between the three Powers with the object of separating Mussulman from Christian populations, and it was on this account that Western Powers had abstained from interfering. Turkish Government could only remain at Constantinople for four more years at the utmost, at the end of which time the Empre would be in the greatest danger. Bases of peace would not admit any modification, and must be accepted without murmur. Although it was known that Bulgarians were not capable of self-government, Russia was determined to free them. His Imperial Highness admitted bravery of Turkish soldiers and some Turkish commanders, and attributed defeat to incapacity and treachery of Suleiman Pasha.

No. 392.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 186.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, February 9, 1878, 10·15 P.M.

YOUR telegram about fleet reached me late this afternoon. I informed the Porte at once. Prime Minister has just written to me to say that it is the firm intention of the Turkish Government to keep to its engagements; that the Russian army is at the gates of Constantinople; that the step taken by Her Majesty's Government exposes 1,000,000 human beings to perish in the midst of a conflagration for foreign interests; and that the

Porte protests against it, leaving the responsibility of the frightful catastrophe that may ensue to England. His Highness has received information that six English ships are about to enter Dardanelles, and has telegraphed to the Commandant that they cannot be allowed to do so without the requisite authorization.

No. 393.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 187.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 10, 1878, 10·50 A.M.

PORTE will not grant Firman for passage of British ships through Dardanelles. Prime Minister states that if they should come here, Russians would inevitably enter, as the city is completely open to them, and the most serious consequences would ensue, as they might then bring about disturbances which are apprehended. As Turkey cannot hope for help from England, she would only be more than ever at the mercy of Russia. Admiral Hornby is waiting at entrance of Dardanelles, the Governor having warned against his passage. What do you wish me to do? There is no reason to apprehend at present any danger to English subjects or property here.

No. 394.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 188.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 10, 1878, 11 A.M.

OFFICIAL notification received to-day that during continuance of armistice blockade of Black Sea ceases, and that ships under all flags may now communicate between Ottoman and Russian ports, including those occupied by Russian forces.

No. 395.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 189.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 10, 1878.

MILITARY ATTACHÉ at Gallipoli reports that on the night of 6th a small steamer, which did not belong to Turkish authorities, was seen in the Gulf of Sazos, close to the left flank of the lines of entrenchment. She remained there for a considerable time, and was thought to be laying torpedoes. I have telegraphed the above to the Admiral.

In a subsequent report, Military Attaché states that the steamer had been also seen on the two previous nights similarly occupied.

No. 396.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 190. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 10, 1878, 1 P.M.

HOBART PASHA informs me that he has reason to suspect that the Russians are endeavouring to get the Porte to let them have the Turkish ships of war and transports to embark their troops for Odessa or elsewhere with a view to meeting any Austrian movement.

Turkish Admiralty has received orders to report at once as to capacity of such ships for transport of troops. Hobart Pasha further says Russians having in their possession ports in Sea of Marmora, close to the entrance of Dardanelles, might lay torpedoes there. Matter of serious consideration should there be secret understanding between Russia and Turkey, as some suspect that the Turkish fleet should not come to Constantinople. I understand that a member of the German Embassy has been making inquiries as to consequences of Russians embarking at Constantinople.

No. 396*.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 10, 1878, 3 P.M.

I SENT you the following telegram on Friday, at 4·45 P.M.:—

"The Admiral has been instructed to proceed to Constantinople for the protection of British life and property, with a detachment of the fleet. Request Porte to give necessary orders without delay to the forts.

"Her Majesty's Government presume that a further Firman is not required; but procure one, if you consider it desirable.

"Communicate forthwith with Admiral, who has been ordered to proceed to-morrow afternoon."

I have received no acknowledgment of receipt of above telegram from you. Admiral, in compliance with his instructions, proceeded yesterday to the Dardanelles, but finding that the Governor had no instructions, and objected to his passing the forts, he anchored at the entrance to the Straits at 9 P.M., and sent "Salamis" to Chanak, to wait for telegram from you.

No. 397.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 193.) *Foreign Office, February* 10, 1878.

Sir,

ON the 8th instant, I sent your Excellency a telegram to the following effect:—

"The Admiral has been instructed to proceed to Constantinople with a detachment of Her Majesty's fleet for the protection of the lives and property of British subjects. Request the Porte to give the necessary orders without delay to the forts.

"Her Majesty's Government presume that a further firman is not required, but procure one if you consider it is desirable.

"You will communicate immediately with the Admiral, who has been ordered to proceed to-morrow afternoon."

I have not received any acknowledgment of the receipt by your Excellency of the above telegram.

In compliance with the instructions which he has received, the Admiral proceeded yesterday to the Dardanelles, but finding that the Governor had no instructions, and objected to his passing the forts, he anchored at the entrance of the Straits at 9 P.M., and sent Her Majesty's ship "Salamis" to Chanak to await a telegraphic despatch from your Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 398.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 11.)

(No. 14. Political.) *Scutari, January* 27, 1878.

My Lord,

A RECENT number of the Italian newspaper "Unione" contained a telegram from this, stating that 6,000 Mussulmans of Scutari had signed a petition, praying the Italian Government to place North Albania under the protection of Italy, and to occupy it with an armed force. The telegram, which was dated the 6th instant, added that the petition and leaving for Rome on that day.

If such a document really exists, the vast majority of the names on it must be fictitious, as it would have been impossible in such a crowd to keep its existence secret until now.

There can be no doubt, however, that, whether with the sanction of the Italian Government or not, there are persons here, and among them Mussulmans, engaged in urging the annexation of the province by Italy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 399.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 4. Political.) *Salonica, January 30, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 26th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the advance of the Servian army and of the disbanded Bashi-Bazouks, and the preparations making at Prevesa to resist a siege.

Also a copy of my despatch of the 26th instant, with an inclosure, being a report to Mr. Stoney of the Stafford House Committee at Constantinople on the subject of the wounded soldiers and sick here, and of the destitution of the refugees.

Also a copy of my despatch of the 28th instant, being the report sent to me by Mr. Vice-Consul Suter of the landing near Volo, on the Greek frontier, of parties of Greek volunteer filibusters, and of the measures taken by the authorities to repel the invasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 399.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, January 26, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have authentic information of the taking of Chuistendil and Dubnitza by the Servians; that Radomir has been heard, but not by them. They are advancing on Uscup, from which place they may take the railway if so intentioned, and come down here in a few hours. We are told there are some thousands of Bashi-Bazouks, who have been disbanded and sent away from the army, who are on the road coming this way over-running the country. A party of them attacked Gredibore, a village about two hours from Salonica, and completely sacked it, and our Vali has sent a detachment of regulars to arrest them and bring them here for punishment. In the meantime they were found selling the cows and buffaloes in this city when the peasants came to claim them, but were not all in time to save their cattle.

His Excellency intends sending away to Asia Minor as many as he can of these irregulars as soon as a Turkish man-of-war arrives here.

I hear from Prevesa, dated the 19th instant, that fifty captains, lieutenants, and non-commissioned officers, taken from the battalions of Arta and Prevesa, left that port on the 13th instant by Austrian Lloyds' steamer for Constantinople, called thither by the Porte to drill new levies, and that in Epirus half the number of officers are in future to be attached to each battalion within the week ended the 12th January. The Government at Prevesa received in four vessels: 350,000 okes of flour, 100,000 okes of biscuit, 200,000 okes of barley, and 4,000 kilos of oats, the produce of last year's tithes from Albania.

Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Athanasides has been assured by the Mutessarif of Prevesa that this quantity, and what is expected shortly to arrive there, will suffice for one year's provision for 25,000 men.

The arrival of filibusters at Volo has not as yet been confirmed.

We have now in port here only the Italian corvette "Scylla," and hope a British vessel of war will soon be sent here to intimidate the desperate characters and vagabonds of which this city is now crowded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 399.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, January 26, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a letter I have this day addressed to Mr. Stoney, of the Stafford-House Committee, Pera, on the subject of the wounded and sick soldiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 399.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Stoney.

Salonica, January 25, 1878.

Sir,

IN reply to your telegram whether there are many wounded soldiers in Salonica, and if an English ambulance was wanted, I replied on the 22nd instant, by telegram, that the authorities had informed me that none was wanted.

Since that telegram was dispatched, I visited the hospital (yesterday) and the barracks, and have conversed with the Vali, and can now report to you that the hospital arrangements here (where I saw 300 to 400 patients) appeared to me to be good; but the barracks, where there are 1,200 wounded and sick, is very far from being so, because the sudden influx of so many men has not allowed of the requisite assistance being provided. There are many who have no mattresses, many more no covering, and nearly all require change of linen (shirts and drawers); the whole place is in a filthy state, and only one jar of water between 400 to 500 men.

The members of the Red Cross Crescent who are here, and with whom I went to visit the men, have distributed tobacco, and intend to give 300 shirts and 300 to 400 drawers, but there is ample room for more absolute necessaries, particularly an increase of food, to sustain the convalescent. The ration of bread is insufficient, and I do not think the Turkish Government here (seeing the immense number of refugees coming in from the north, many of whom are in a starving condition, who are fed by the authorities with a small loaf to each) is able to supply the want.

The Vali expressed his hearty concurrence that aid be given to the wounded and sick, and also to the refugees, and if your Committee have the power of contributing to this last-mentioned demand, there is much to be done, for numbers are coming in daily from the devastated districts north of Salonica, in a state of the greatest destitution and misery.

If I may be allowed to offer a suggestion, I would recommend that a confidential person, with attendants, be sent, who would be charged with the distribution of what may be required. I know of no one here who would or could undertake to fill that office.

The Red Cross Crescent here have very little funds. They have two "ambulance" carriages which lie uselessly in the court of the house. Such things are not wanted here.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 399.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, January 28, 1878.

Sir,

THE Turkish post from Larissa having come in, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, under date the 24th instant, reports that 80 Greek armed filibusters landed at the village of Brumeree, in the Gulf of Volo. They molested no one, paid for what they had, and left again. But they, or others, having come from Evrippos, went to the villages of Neohoro and Millices, and then the number appeared to be 110; and thither the Kaimakam went against them with two companies, a mountain-gun, and some irregulars.

The intense cold had the effect of hindering all action on both sides.

Two companies of Reslis, two of Zerbeck irregulars, and 100 Cheghs irregulars have been sent to the village of Keramect. Another band, composed it is said of 80 men, has appeared in the neighbourhood of Ayuh; but of this the authorities, at the date of Mr. Suter's despatch, had not received any official intimation from the Mudir of that place.

The master of a British merchant-vessel, who arrived yesterday from Volo, says he heard there that persons had been brought into the town wounded, and that the report was that the Turkish troops had got the worst of the fight.

Before he left the Piræus he saw 600 volunteers embark for Thessaly in a manner which left no doubt on his mind that the authorities there not only had cognizance but winked at their departure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. B. BARKER.

No. 400.

Acting Consul Beckwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 6. Political.)
My Lord,

Salonica, January 31, 1878.

AS the post for Brindisi is leaving to-day, I take the opportunity of reporting to your Lordship the latest political information, which I cannot communicate to Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Porte, before the departure of the next mail for Constantinople, on Sunday the 3rd February, because we are not allowed to telegraph in cypher.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that armed Albanians from Debrah, not in the Porte's pay, as irregular troops, have come to villages in the district about Monastir, and have pillaged and levied contributions. The Governor of Monastir telegraphed to the Governor-General here at Salonica to inform him of this state of things, and he received for answer that he must send regular troops against them. The Governor of Monastir replied that he had not troops enough, and that if he were to send an insufficient force there would be civil war, for the Albanians are all armed, and would resist. We have not heard lately of these men having killed any one, but they have carried away household effects, cattle, and extorted sums of money.

There is no doubt that anarchy exists in the rural districts of this vilayet. The local authorities have not troops enough to maintain order, and when they have they are not left long enough for any effective purpose. In some of the cities and large towns a civic guard or militia has been established, but in the rural districts there are no police. Now, when most of the available men have been drafted into the army, the country is at the mercy of lawless bands of armed robbers and disbanded Bashi-Bazouks.

Her Majesty's iron-clad "Research," Captain Wilson, arrived here yesterday from Besika Bay, sent by Vice-Admiral Hornby to report on the state of the country, and to be here, or at Volo, in case of need.

Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney has informed me, by telegram, that he returned to his post at Preveza on the 28th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 401.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 150.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, January 31, 1878.

TURKEY, as your Lordship is no doubt aware, was one of the few European States that, from time immemorial, had offered an asylum to persons persecuted in their own country for their political and religious opinions. They were received by her with hospitality and kindness. Many, like the Jews driven from Spain, were encouraged to settle in this country; others entered into the Turkish service, in which they even rose to high rank. The Porte has been so resolute in maintaining what it considers a religious duty and the right of a free nation, that rather than give up Kossuth and other Hungarians who had sought its protection it ran the risk, as your Lordship will remember, of finding itself at war with Russia and Austria.

Amongst the political refugees who have established themselves in the Sultan's dominions are many Poles. Most of them are in the Turkish military and civil service. It is stated that whenever they have fallen into the hands of the Russians, during the present war, they have been put to death.

I am informed that a M. Mihalski, a Pole under Austrian protection, serving as a doctor in the Turkish army, and M. Zachinski, who was practising as a physician in the town of Kyzanlik, were hanged at Sofia. Three other Poles, Messieurs Schuialski, Rzewuski, and Grigjetbeski, civil engineers in the Turkish service, had to be given up by the Turks to the Russians at Adrianople, and their fate is not known; but it is believed that they have either been hanged or sent to Siberia. I trust that the information which has reached Constantinople with regard to these unfortunate persons is unfounded or exaggerated, but it has caused the greatest alarm amongst the numerous Poles, amounting, I am told, to between 200 and 300, who are in the capital. They have addressed me a petition, of which I inclose a copy, asking me to afford them protection. This, I fear, I cannot do. I have advised them to leave the city, and to seek refuge in Asia, or in some part of Europe.

They say that they have not the means of doing so, as they are, for the most part, poor people depending on the small salaries or allowances they receive from the Turkish Government. Some of them declare that rather than be taken by the Russians they will defend themselves to the last, preferring to die with arms in their hands to meeting the fate that would be reserved for them.

It may, perhaps, be a matter of regret to some that there will be an asylum the less in Europe for those who may suffer in the cause of political and religious liberty, especially at a time when persecutions for that cause are not likely to diminish.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 401.

M. Wresniowski and others to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, le 28 Janvier, 1878.

Monseigneur,

FORCES par les circonstances politiques de quitter notre patrie, nous avons eu jusqu'à présent un refuge et une protection sur le sol de la Turquie; mais dans la situation actuelle cette protection n'étant plus suffisante, et la sécurité des refugiés Polonais étant gravement compromise, nous avons l'honneur de supplier la protection et le secours à la grande nation Anglaise, si dignement représentée par votre Excellence.

Daignez, &c.

Les Délégués de l'Emigration Polonaise en Orient,
(Signé) EDWIN WRESNIOWSKI, *Ingénieur-en-chef.*
W. SOKALSKI, *Ingénieur-en-chef.*
F. YRZASKA, *Ingénieur.*

No. 402.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 77. Secret.)
My Lord,

Vienna, January 31, 1878.

UPON the receipt of your Lordship's instructions I communicated to Count Andrassy the substance of the Memorandum given by your Lordship to Count Schouvaloff conveying the views of Her Majesty's Government in reference to an advance by the Russian troops towards Constantinople, and I requested him to enable me to inform your Lordship of the measures which the Austro Hungarian Government would be prepared to adopt if an attack upon the capital became imminent.

To this question I could obtain no direct answer, but Count Andrassy said he shared the views of Her Majesty's Government, and would on his part also make a communication on the subject to the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh.

He observed that a Russian entry into Constantinople was not one of the points upon which the British and Austrian Governments had agreed to support each other, and that although he fully shared the objections felt to it by Her Majesty's Government, the question was one which affected England more nearly than it did Austria, and it would be necessary for us to be (according to his expression) "one length" in advance of Austria in reference to it.

Another question, he said, not included among the seven points which might touch Austria more closely, would be that of a Russian occupation of Bulgaria after the conclusion of peace, and this he must oppose at all risks, even if not supported by us.

The manner in which Count Andrassy enunciated these two questions led me to the conclusion that he would not be sorry that they should both be added to the points upon which the two Governments have agreed to support each other, and that he would engage to accept any measures taken by Great Britain in regard to a Russian advance on Constantinople in return for an agreement by us to support him in resisting a Russian occupation of Bulgaria; but, as has been the case throughout, he refuses to speak plainly, and gives many reasons for leaving us to take the first step.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 403.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 81.) *Vienna, February 4, 1878.*

My Lord,

I WAS to-day received by the Emperor in solemn audience with the formalities usual at this Court, and had the honour of putting into his hands the Queen's letter accrediting me as her Ambassador to His Majesty.

The Emperor was pleased to express himself as much gratified that Her Majesty had selected me for the post, and said that he had been expecting my arrival with some impatience, on account of the important matters that had now to engage the attention of the Governments of the two countries, between which he hoped that the closest intimacy and understanding might be maintained.

Arrangements for the pacification of the East were about to be entered into, and the prospect of their being such as to give promise of permanent tranquillity would, to a great extent, depend upon an intimate understanding and a common course of action being followed by Great Britain and Austria.

I said that this was precisely the view of Her Majesty's Government, who had given evidence of their desire to act in act in concert with Austria by the confidential communications in which they had unreservedly expressed their manner of looking upon the present state of affairs.

I had yesterday, I added, repeated to Count Andrassy, by your Lordship's instructions, that Her Majesty's Government fully adhered to the seven points that had been put forward by Austria as especially affecting her interests, and had stated that Her Majesty's Government hoped to exchange further confidential communications with that of His Majesty with respect to details which might require still to be agreed upon.

The Emperor received this assurance with such lively satisfaction that I imagine Count Andrassy had not yet informed His Majesty of the communication made to him yesterday.

His Majesty took the opportunity of expressing his warmest acknowledgment for the manner in which His Imperial and Royal Highness the Crown Prince Archduke Rudolph had been received by the Queen and the Royal Family, and requested me to convey them to Her Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 404.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 84. Confidential.) *Vienna, February 5, 1878.*

My Lord,

BARON CALICE informed me to-day that the answer of M. Depretis to the note by which Sir Augustus Paget conveyed the views of Her Majesty's Government in reference to the modifications of Treaties was looked upon by Count Andrassy as being studiously evasive, for it merely recognized an abstract principle, which could not be controverted, without any indication of a disposition to stand by it.

Baron Calice says, however, that the tone of the Italian Government has latterly been more satisfactory than it was a short time ago, although there seemed still to be at Rome a lingering suspicion of a disposition on the part of Austria to acquire territory in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Count Robilant, to whom I have spoken of this suspicion, says that if it is still entertained by his Government it is not his fault, as he has repeatedly declared his conviction of its being groundless.

Baron Calice, in allusion to the fear of the Italian Government that some great Power would obtain an increase of territory in the East, said he would be glad to know whether the annexation of Bessarabia to Moldavia to Russia, or the adoption of an arrangement which would practically make Bulgaria a Russian province, would be looked upon as measures to which the Cabinet of Rome would be opposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 405.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 86.) *Vienna, February 5, 1878.*

My Lord,

M. BALACHANO, the Roumanian Agent, tells me that his Government have positively declared that they will not voluntarily give up Bessarabian Moldavia to Russia, or accept the proposed compensation for it in the Dobrutcha; although, of course if Russia is determined to take it, she can do it by force.

I said to him, as I had before remarked to M. Jon Ghika, that I could hardly believe his Government to be unprepared for a demand which, before the war, every one knew would be made by Russia.

M. Balachano replied, that after the very explicit engagement entered into by Russia, guaranteeing the integrity of Roumanian territory as fixed by Treaty, no one could be prepared for such an act of spoliation as that now meditated.

If the Roumanian Government is in earnest in a determination to refuse voluntarily to part with its Bessarabian Province, there can be no doubt that even a Government so little scrupulous as that of Russia would feel itself embarrassed at having to extort by force a Province from an Ally from which it has just been receiving valuable assistance; but it is perhaps quite as likely that the indignation of Prince Charles' Government at the suggested cession is simulated, and that there was an understanding on the subject of Bessarabia from the beginning.

Long before the war commenced, I was frequently told by persons having means of being well informed that Prince Charles' yearning to be recognized as an independent Sovereign was so great that he would without hesitation sacrifice his Bessarabian Province to secure it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 406.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 88. Confidential.) *Vienna, February 6, 1878.*

My Lord,

WHEN I saw Baron Calice yesterday he informed me that no answer had yet been received from St. Petersburgh in reference to the proposed Conference. He said that Count Andrassy believed the Russian Government wished to lose as much time as possible before the Conference can be assembled, in order to mature and pursue its own plans, and it was understood also to feel some disinclination to agree to Vienna as the place where the Conference was to be held.

The Count attached far more importance to the early assembling of the Conference than to the place where it should meet; and Baron Calice's language led me to infer that if Russia objected strongly to Vienna, and proposed in lieu of it some other town, not the capital of one of the Great Powers, Count Andrassy, although no doubt anxious that Vienna should be selected, would not give Russia a pretext for delay by insisting upon it.

Baron Orczy, whom I saw this afternoon, said that it now appears that the Russian Government do not intend to send their answer to the invitation by telegraph; for the Russian Ambassador had just informed him that he had received notification of the dispatch from St. Petersburgh of a messenger who is expected to be the bearer of it, so that two days more will probably elapse before it is communicated.

In the meantime favourable answers have been received from all the other Governments.

Prince Gortchakow is believed here to wish to have a Congress instead of a Conference, and to substitute St. Petersburgh for Vienna as the place of meeting, to which last suggestion Count Andrassy would not be willing to consent without good reason being shown for it.

He also considers that there are many objections in the way of a Congress, if, as he imagines, it would have to be attended by the Prime Ministers or Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the different countries.

Altogether, the Austrian Government appear to be confirmed in their impression of

there being a disposition on the part of Russia to defer, if not to evade, submitting the arrangements to be come to to the decision of the European Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 407.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 90.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 6, 1878.*

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires has communicated to the Austrian Government a telegram he has received from Athens in reference to the invasion of Thessaly, explaining that the measure had become necessary to insure attention being paid to the interests of Greece in the arrangements to be made in the East.

The Greek Government gives the assurance that, upon receiving a promise from the Great Powers that their interests should not be forgotten, they will immediately send orders to stop the further advance of their troops.

I did not gather from Baron Orczy, to whom this communication was made, that the Greek Government undertook to withdraw their troops from the Turkish territory if they obtain the promise, nor could I ascertain what they proposed to do if it were not given.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 408.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 91. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 6, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Government will no doubt be anxious to know the line which the Austro-Hungarian Government may be likely to follow in the negotiations about to be opened in connection with the peace between Russia and Turkey; but if, so soon after my arrival here, I venture to express any opinion on that subject, I must beg to be understood as only doing so with the utmost diffidence.

My impression, and I own that it is a decided one, is that the Austrian Government are sincerely desirous that there should be as little disturbance as possible of the arrangements of the Treaties of 1856 compatible with the securities which must be found for the better administration of the European Provinces of Turkey.

The Austrian Government appear to me to have given evidence that they are not anxious to obtain possession of Bosnia, and thus to increase the strength of the Slav element of the Austro-Hungarian Empire; but the frequent allusions both by Count Andrassy and by Baron Calice to the encouragement offered to them from many different quarters (including, I was given to understand, an intimation made a year ago that Her Majesty's Government would have no particular objection to it) sufficiently convinces me that they do not even yet look upon it as a mode of arrangement that they may not still under certain eventualities be driven to adopt.

If they are unable to prevent arrangements which shall give to Russia an overwhelming influence over the Slavs of the Eastern Turkish Provinces, it is not unlikely that they may consider that the interests of Austria make it imperative upon them to secure a counterbalancing influence over those of the Western Provinces.

They have already intimated that they would look upon an autonomic, tributary Bulgaria, of the extent intended by Russia, as equivalent to the erection of the great Slav State which they had declared incompatible with the interests of this Empire, and they count upon the support of Her Majesty's Government in resisting such a project, according to the understanding already come to.

Few persons who look at the question dispassionately will question the accuracy of Mr. Layard's statement that the project, if carried out, must be regarded as fatal to the Turkish Empire in Europe, and judging from M. Depretis' language, as reported in Sir Augustus Paget's telegram of the 31st ultimo, the Italian Government appear to be of the same opinion.

Nevertheless it may be found impossible to prevent the plan from being carried out, if not to its full extent, at least far enough to make the Austro-Hungarian Government consider that they must make their weight felt in another quarter, and I should not then be surprised to find them demand the cession of Bosnia.

It is not believed, excepting by the Slav party, that this would be a benefit to Austria; but the Ministers would insist upon it to free themselves from the reproach of having tolerated a great advance by Russia without securing any equivalent for their own country.

If they were to expect any increase of influence at Constantinople by such an annexation, they would, I am convinced, be mistaken, for unless events were to take a turn leading to war between Russia and Austria or some other great Power, the only real influence at Constantinople must for years to come be solely that of Russia.

There is an Eastern saying, that "a dog must lick the hand that it dare not bite," and the conduct of the Porte after the peace will certainly be guided by that rule.

Austria might possibly acquire Bosnia without striking a blow; but she would not, like Russia, have inspired fear by making her great power felt, and she would simply provoke the hatred of the Turks by profiting by Russian victories to annex a province.

I would only repeat, in conclusion, that I do not attribute to the Austrian Government a design, or even a wish, to take possession of any portion of the Turkish territory; but at the same time it may be right to point out that circumstances may arise which would make them resolve upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 409.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 93.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 7, 1878.*

UPON my mentioning to Count Andrassy that the Servians were uneasy at a report of an intention on the part of Russia to have Widdin made over to Roumania, he replied that he had heard the same report, but that the Servians need be under no anxiety upon that head.

He had already intimated in distinct terms that Widdin should not pass into the hands of either the Roumanians or Servians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 410.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 94. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 7, 1878.*

M. BALACHANO, the Roumanian Agent here, called upon me to-day and communicated to me a note addressed by his Government to Baron Stuart, the Russian Diplomatic Agent at Bucharest, on the 23rd ultimo.

In this note, of which a copy is inclosed herewith, M. Cogalniceano recapitulates the part which Roumania has taken in the war, and asserts her right to be represented in the negotiations for peace. He points out that the Roumanian Government has been ignored in these negotiations, and while allowing that this may easily be explained by the pre-occupation of the Russian head-quarters in other directions, announces that Colonel Arion has been sent to Kyzanlik, and Prince Ghika to St. Petersburgh, with full powers to represent Prince Charles' Government in all the negotiations relating to the armistice and to the terms of peace.

To this note no answer has been returned by the Russian Government.

M. Balachano having requested my opinion as to the practicability and expediency of his Government attempting to negotiate directly with the Porte, I answered that it seemed to me unlikely that Turkey would consent to any course which would infallibly, as soon as it became known, be resented by Russia, who had probably already included in her stipulations with Turkey all the arrangements which she contemplated making in regard to Roumania.

M. Balachano having expressed the strong anxiety of his Government to shake itself free from the trammels in which it was held by Russia, said he knew of no way in which he could get into direct communication or negotiation with the Porte; but I replied that it was impossible for me to assist him as an intermediary in a matter which would certainty cause much irritation to the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 410.

M. Cogalniceano to Baron Stuart.

M. l'Agent, *Bucarest, le* $\frac{11}{23}$ *Janvier*, 1878.

EN réponse à une dépêche de M. le Président du Conseil des Ministres, M. de Nelidoff, Directeur de la Chancellerie Diplomatique du Grand Quartier-Général de l'Armée Impériale, a adressé à M. Bratiano un télégramme pour leur notifier, au nom de Son Altesse Impériale Monseigneur le Grand Duc Nicolas Nicolaievitch, Commandant-en-chef, que les communications relatives aux bases de la paix doivent se faire à St. Pétersbourg. J'ajouterai que M. de Nelidoff garde le silence au sujet de l'armistice.

La déclaration et l'omission de M. de Nelidoff me déterminent à vous exposer sans retard, à vous, M. l'Agent, qui représentez officiellement le Gouvernement Impérial à Bucarest, les vues du Cabinet Roumain sur la question des négociations éventuelles d'armistice et de paix, et sur la part que le Gouvernement Roumain se croit en droit et en devoir d'y prétendre.

Vous savez, M. l'Agent, que la Roumanie a déclaré la guerre à l'Empire Ottoman en raison des griefs direct, et personnel, qu'elle avait contre la Sublime Porte. Vous n'ignorez pas que cette déclaration de guerre s'est produite en dehors et même à l'encontre des avis du Gouvernement Impérial, et que, lors du séjour à Ploiesti de Son Altesse Impériale Monseigneur le Grand Duc Nicolas, un peu avant l'arrivée en cette ville de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, M. de Nelidoff, au nom de Son Altesse Impériale, et par une note verbale qui m'a été remise en personne, a insisté sur ce point, que le Gouvernement Impérial n'approuvait pas notre déclaration de guerre et n'avait nul besoin de la co-opération de notre armée.

C'était *à priori* laisser à la Roumanie une situation bien distincte, lui assigner une responsabilité devant laquelle elle n'a pas reculé, et lui réserver le principe d'une individualité qu'elle a constamment et hautement revendiquée.

Bientôt et en conséquence des combinaisons et des nécessités stratégiques, l'armée Roumaine a passé le Danube sur l'invitation expresse et réiterée, non seulement du Grand Quartier-Général Russe, mais aussi de Son Altesse le Prince Gortchakow.

Une fois sur les champs de bataille, soit isolément soit à côté de l'armée Impériale, nos troupes, sous le commandement de leur auguste Souverain, ont fait leur devoir avec un dévouement, une énergie, et une vaillance auxquels Sa Majesté l'Empereur et Son Altesse Impériale Monseigneur le Grand Duc Nicolas se sont plu à rendre hommage en mainte circonstance solennelle.

La correspondance entre les Quartiers-Généraux, les ordres du jour émanés de Son Altesse Impériale Monseigneur le Grand Duc Nicolas, enfin les communications échangées entre mon Département et les différentes autorités Russes, témoignent officiellement que la position et la qualité d'armée alliée ont été reconnues à l'armée Roumaine.

Ce qu'était notre armée à l'action il est de toute équité qu'elle le reste à la solution. Du jour où les pourparlers diplomatiques succèdent aux luttes armées, il est de toute justice que la Roumanie participe aux négociations comme elle a participé aux combats.

Le Cabinet Roumain ne doute pas que l'oubli, où il est actuellement laissé, ne résulte du surcroît d'occupations qui accablent le Quartier-Général Russe, surtout depuis qu'une série de rapides et brillantes victoires a ouvert à son action militaire et administrative un si vaste domaine.

Mais un oubli si facilement explicable ne serait excusable en aucune façon de la part de mon Gouvernement, auquel incombent de si hauts devoirs et une si grave responsabilité vis-à-vis du pays.

Je viens donc au nom de ce Gouvernement vous notifier, M. l'Agent, que M. le Colonel Arion a été envoyé au Quartier-Général de Son Altesse Impériale Monseigneur le Grand Duc Nicolas, Commandant-en-chef, avec plein pouvoir de représenter la Roumanie au cours des négociations prochaines relatives à l'armistice.

De même le Général Prince Ghika est reparti pour St. Pétersbourg, afin d'y reprendre et d'y continuer auprès du Gouvernement Impérial la mission qui lui avait été confiée antérieurement à la déclaration de guerre.

En portant cette double nomination à votre connaissance, et en raison des considérations ci-dessus developpées, j'ai l'honneur de vous prier, M. l'Agent, de vouloir bien, en votre qualité de Représentant Diplomatique de la Russie à Bucarest, intervenir auprès du Gouvernement Impérial pour que nos deux Envoyés soient admis tout à l'heure qu'à St. Pétersbourg, à remplir dans la mesure des instructions et des pouvoirs dont ils sont munis, leur mandat respectif.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) COGALNICEANO.

No. 411.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 11.)

(No. 95. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February* 7, 1878.

I THIS morning communicated to Count Andrassy Mr. Layard's telegram to your Lordship of the 5th instant, reporting the serious aspect of affairs at Constantinople, and the advance of the Russians in spite of the conclusion of the armistice.

Count Andrassy had received no intelligence of a similar nature, having had no telegrams from Constantinople for three days.

The continued advance of the Russian forces or any appearance of threatening Constantinople would seem to Count Andrassy a proceeding of such an unheard of nature, that he can scarcely credit the accuracy of Mr. Layard's intelligence.

If it should prove true, it would hardly be possible for the Powers to defer coming to a decision as to the steps they should adopt, but I did not succeed in extracting from him any intimation of what he considered those steps should be.

His mind appeared entirely occupied by the question of the Conference, by which he is sanguine enough to hope that arrangements may be come to such as to deprive the Russians of most of the fruits of their military success, by checking the great Slav advance which they hope to establish.

The object of the Powers, which he is confident of their being able to carry out, should be to let all the Christians of European Turkey feel that their interests are being watched over and provided for by them, while the sympathy of Russia has only been exhibited for those of one particular race.

The Greek population had throughout regarded with aversion the advance of Russia, and the protection she meant to exercise over the Bulgarians, whom she proposed to incorporate into an autonomic state.

Count Andrassy disapproves of provinces with meandering frontiers according as they might chance to have Bulgarian or Greek inhabitants, the former to enjoy exceptional privileges and the latter to be excluded from them.

He would wish, as far as I was able to gather his meaning, that the Powers should insist upon the adoption of the largest possible measures of security from misgovernment in favour of all the Christians, and thus secure for themselves the gratitude of the whole population, instead of allowing Russia to obtain special privileges for a particular race, which would make the others believe that it was only by turning to her that they might hope hereafter to acquire a similar position, thus creating a state of things which must before long lead to fresh disturbance.

Count Andrassy, in fact, appears to wish to enlist the Greek and other Christian populations upon the side of the Powers in withstanding the creation of an encroaching Slav State.

With regard to the objection which the Russian Government feel to the selection of Vienna for the place of meeting for the Conference, Count Andrassy would not pronounce himself till he received the communication which, according to the custom of the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh when it wished to lose time, was being forwarded by messenger instead of by telegraph to Vienna.

If Prince Gortchakow was anxious to preside over the Conference or Congress, Count Andrassy was, he said, personally tolerably indifferent to it, if it would not be contrary to established diplomatic usage; but he attached more importance to the place of meeting, and he holds more to having it at Vienna than Baron Calice's language a few days ago had led me to expect.

He is becoming daily more impressed with the conviction that the great object of Russia is to gain time while her arrangements with the Porte are being completed, and he asks whether it is possible to suppose that Prince Gortchakow would have spoken of holding the Conference in Switzerland if he had contemplated going there while the winter lasted.

The Russian Ambassador, whom I have just seen, speaks as if he thought his Government would make the *sine qud non* condition that the Conference should be in some town of secondary importance, but he does not seem to expect Prince Gortchakow to insist absolutely upon presiding over it himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 412.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 77.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February 4, 1878.*

THE Austrian Ambassador, in the name of his Government, has addressed an official note to the German Minister for Foreign Affairs inviting the German Government to take part in a Conference of the Powers to be held at Vienna forthwith, for the settlement of Turkish affairs.

The German Government will accept the invitation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 413.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 81.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February 7, 1878.*

IN obedience to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday's date, I communicated the substance of Mr. Layard's telegram of the 5th instant, respecting the close proximity of the Russian forces to Constantinople, &c., to the German Minister for Foreign Affairs.

His Excellency said that the last telegrams received from Prince Reuss were dated on the 4th instant, but did not allude to the state of things described by the Ambassador at Constantinople.

The report of the occupation of Constantinople by the Russians, telegraphed from London newspapers to-day to the Berlin press, was of course unfounded, and merely invented for stockjobbing purposes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 414.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 83.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February 7, 1878.*

AS I had the honour to inform your Lordship by telegraph, the German Government accepted the invitation of the Austrian Government to the proposed Conference at Vienna; but since the Russian Government now object to Vienna, they are equally prepared to accept any other town the Austrian and Russian Governments may finally agree upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 415.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 91. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February 9, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, in his despatch No. 65, Most Confidential, of the 25th ultimo, on the subject of the relations between Prince Bismarck and the Liberal party in France, states that M. Waddington is of opinion that Prince Bismarck is not specially occupied at the present time with any combinations respecting territorial changes, as have been so often attributed to him, but that his energies are at this moment directed to centralizing the administration of the German Empire, and to involving England in war with Russia.

Whatever Prince Bismarck's former plans may have been in regard to involving England in war with Russia, there can be no doubt that he now wishes England and Russia to agree, so as to strengthen the Northern alliance, and secure a durable peace to Europe, which would enable Germany to recover from her commercial distress.

On the other hand, M. Waddington is right in thinking that Prince Bismarck feels the necessity of strengthening the administration of the German Empire, which the growing particularism of the minor States tends to weaken; but the task is not an easy one.

He will have to encounter the resistance of all the Governments of the minor States, who will not willingly give up what little independence they still enjoy, and he will have to overcome the Emperor's objections to constitutional changes and new Ministers taken from a political party with whose principles His Majesty never had much sympathy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 416.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 92.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February 9, 1878.*

ON receiving your Lordship's telegram last night, I informed the German Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government would order a detachment of the fleet to proceed to Constantinople for the protection of British life and property; and I added that Her Majesty's Government invited the German Government to give similar instructions to their Naval Commanders on the station.

His Excellency desired me to thank your Lordship for this communication, and said, that considering the disturbed state of things at Constantinople, the measure would be most beneficial to British residents in Turkey.

The German Government had at present but one available ship at Salonica, but Prince Reuss had already been consulted as to the protection he might think necessary for German subjects and property.

Herr von Bülow ended by saying that he would submit your Lordship's communication at once to the Emperor and Prince Bismarck.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 417

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 6. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, February 1, 1878.*

AS the steamer with the mails for Brindisi did not leave yesterday, I am in time to give your Lordship more particulars than I could in my despatch of yesterday's date.

I have now the honour to report to your Lordship that Suleiman Pasha's army, reduced to about 30,000 men, is being embarked at Porto Lagos, in four Turkish ironclads, for Constantinople. Baker Pasha and his men were embarked on Tuesday, the 29th ultimo. Suleiman Pasha, Chakir Pasha, and Fuad Pasha will have followed.

Mr. Pecchioli, the British Acting Vice-Consul at Cavalla, reports to me, under date

of the 30th ultimo, that the whole country is full of Circassian families fleeing from the Russians and Servians, in long lines of carts and of every kind of conveyance. Panic-stricken, they strive to embark for Asia Minor and Syria; the poor threaten their more wealthier neighbours with death if they attempt to embark and leave them behind.

Besides this exodus, there are hundreds of Circassian and Albanian irregulars, all armed with Martini-Henry and Winchester rifles, who have come from the seat of war, selling horses and cattle, and every species of goods which they have pillaged from the Bulgarian villages on their road from thence to the towns of Drama, Serres, and Cavalla, at very low prices. Many have articles of silver from the churches. Some of these last have been sold here.

It is now ascertained that there has not been any insurrection in Thessaly; the rural population would not join the volunteer filibusters, who, 140 in number, are shut up in a monastery, besieged by the Turkish troops.

This I heard from the Vali to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 418.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 145.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 5, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship an extract of a letter from the correspondent of the "Golos," reproduced by the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" dated the 2nd instant, endeavouring to prove that, independently of the difficulty of the communication, the course of the negotiation at the Russian head-quarters had been retarded by the Turks.

It states that on the day of his first interview with the Grand Duke Nicholas Server Pasha telegraphed to the Porte as follows:—

"The Grand Duke has found our instructions insufficient, and has observed that the adoption only *ad referendum* of the Russian conditions would retard the negotiations. The permission also to send cyphered despatches for our communication with the Porte offered certain difficulties."

Server Pasha consequently asked for more extensive powers, and that they should be sent by courier.

After deliberation the Sultan and the majority of his Ministers decided to send the fullest powers to the Turkish Delegates.

On receipt, however, two or three days later, of intelligence from London, a second courier was despatched, modifying the previous instructions, and restricting the liberty of action on the part of the Plenipotentiaries.

The foregoing is the Russian account, throwing the blame for the delay on the Turkish Government; but from this statement the first delay was apparently caused by the Grand Duke Nicholas considering the powers given to the Turkish Delegates as insufficient, and further also by the difficulties raised by the Grand Duke to their communication with their Government in cypher.

It cannot be doubted that the Grand Duke Nicholas was anxious to push on his forces as far as he could before the conclusion of an armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 418.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of January 31/February 6, 1878.

NOUVELLES DE LA GUERRE.—Le correspondant spécial de la "Voix," à Constantinople, lui télégraphie, en date de Samedi, 19 Janvier/1 Février:—

"Des informations positives me permettent d'affirmer que, indépendamment de la difficulté des communications, le cours des négociations au quartier-général Russe a été retardé par la faute des Turcs. Le jour même de sa première entrevue avec Son Altesse Impériale Monseigneur le Grand Duc, Commandant-en-chef, Server Pacha télégraphiait à la Porte: 'Le Grand Duc a trouvé nos instructions insuffisantes et a fait remarquer que

l'adoption *ad referendum* seulement des conditions posées par la Russie retarderait les négociations et que l'admission de dépêches chiffrées pour nos communications avec la Porte présentait certains inconvénients.' Server Pacha demandait en conséquence à la Porte que des pouvoirs plus étendus lui fussent donnés et qu'ils fussent envoyés par un courrier, sous pli cacheté.

"Lorsque le Conseil des Ministres Turcs se réunit, sous la présidence du Sultan, pour examiner cette demande, on reçut ici de Londres un télégramme résumant en substance la déclaration faite au Parlement Britannique par le Duc d'Argyll qu'une occupation de Constantinople par l'armée Russe ne porterait pas atteinte aux intérêts Anglais. Après avoir lu ce télégramme, le Sultan fit remarquer qu'il n'y avait pas à s'en alarmer, attendu que le Duc d'Argyll était probablement un partisan de Gladstone. Mais le Ministre d'Instruction Publique, Munif Effendi, répondit que cette déclaration avait une très sérieuse signification, car le fils du Duc d'Argyll était le gendre de la Reine Victoria, et que le Duc lui-même était un personnage très-influent.

"Après avoir écouté les arguments de Munif Effendi, le Sultan et la majorité des Ministres ont décidé de rédiger les pouvoirs les plus étendus et de les envoyer immédiatement à destination. Deux ou trois jours après cependant il arriva de Londres de nouvelles informations, donnant connaissance des déclarations des membres du Cabinet Anglais. La Porte envoya alors au grand quartier-général Russe un second courrier porteur de nouvelles instructions, qui modifiaient complétement les premières envoyées et restreignaient au plus haut point la liberté d'action de Server et de Namik Pachas.

"D'après l'opinion des agents militaires étrangers, qui ont examiné les lignes des défenses de Constantinople, ces lignes ne peuvent, par suite de leur développement et de l'absence de communications commodes entre les redoutes, être défendues avec succès que par une armée de 800,000 hommes avec 400 canons; or, nous ne possédons même pas le quart de cette force en hommes et en artillerie."

No. 419.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 11. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, February 5, 1878.*

WITH reference to the rumours mentioned in my despatch No. 9, Political, of the 25th January, of the arrival of a very large Russian force in Roumania shortly, I took measures to ascertain whether any preparations were being made in the neighbourhood of Foeshani for the reception of such a body of men, and I have learned that up to the 3rd instant there was nothing to show that they were expected there. There are a large number of wooden huts in the vicinity of Foesbani capable, I am told, of accommodating 10,000 men; these were unoccupied, and small necessary repairs were not being undertaken. Cavalry was marching through, coming from Tekuteh, and proceeding towards Buyen; these men were apparently reserves. About 3,000 had passed during the week ending the 31st January, and they continued to arrive and leave at the rate of about 400 a-day.

No further troops have arrived at Galatz, and for a few days sailors only were being conveyed by the Jassy-Buchurest line. Yesterday, however, goods traffic on the line was again suspended, and last night and to-day large numbers of infantry and cavalry are proceeding by rail in the direction of Bucharest.

About 500 spare cavalry horses arrived at Galatz yesterday, marching in from the direction of Bender.

The ice on the Danube has latterly been considered unsafe. On the 2nd instant it parted at a point nearly opposite the Galatz quay, and there is now a fairly broad, open space, which permits of communication by boat between the two banks of the river.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 420.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, February 11.)

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le 8 Février, soir.*

J'AI eu connaissance de votre télégramme d'hier me communiquant le sens de la note de Lord Derby. Nous entendons par garantie, comme le Gouvernement Anglais, l'usage des efforts extrêmes des Puissances pour empêcher le désastre des populations Helléniques.

Vous n'ignorez pas pourtant, et le Gouvernement Anglais ne doit pas l'ignorez aussi, que les provinces limitrophes de la Turquie sont en pleine insurrection contre la puissance dominante, et que, sans doute, le Gouvernement Ottoman usera de tous les moyens de force pour étouffer l'insurrection. Il attaquera sans doute les insurgés, qui ne manqueront pas d'opposer une résistance armée. Les suites d'un tel conflit sont faciles à supposer, ainsi que le martyre qui en résulterait pour les populations Helléniques. Il serait à souhaiter que les Grandes Puissances engagent la Porte de s'abstenir de tout attaque des insurgés, jusqu'à ce qu'une décision du Congrès Européen intervenait.

Nous vous prions de communiquer le présent à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et appuyer cette demande.

No. 421.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, February 11.)

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le 9 Février, soir.*

VEUILLEZ communiquer à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères le télégramme suivant du Commandant-en-chef de nos troupes, reçu ce moment:—

"Après le départ de nos troupes les habitants des villages Chrétiens émigrent en toute hâte, abandonnant tous leurs biens à la merci des hordes Circassiennes et Gliegues. Malgré toutes mes assurances que les Puissances Européennes ont garanti leur sécurité, le souvenir du passé les met en fuite. Leur départ est si précipité que mes soldats ont trouvé hier des enfants nouveaux-nés au milieu du chemin. La situation des habitants de Thessalie est désespérée. Portez ces faits à la connaissance des Grandes Puissances afin de prévenir massacre et pillage par l'envoi de délégués et par une occupation militaire."

Les renseignements de M. Soutzo sont trop éloquents pour avoir besoin de commentaire.

Insistez auprès de son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères pour mesure quelconque salutaire.

No. 422.

Count Schouvaloff to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

Dimanche soir.

Mon cher Comte,

VOICI une dépêche télégraphique que j'ai reçu du Prince Gortchakow. Je me fais un devoir de vous la transmettre.

Votre, &c.
(Signé) SCHOUVALOFF.

Inclosure in No. 422.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.

(Télégraphique.) *St. Pétersbourg, le 10 Fevrier*, 1878.

LE Gouvernement Britannique, sur les rapports de son Ambassadeur à Constantinople, s'est décidé à profiter d'un Firman précédemment obtenu pour diriger une partie de sa flotte à Constantinople afin de protéger la vie et la sécurité des sujets Britanniques; d'autres Puissances ont adopté la même mesure pour leurs nationaux; l'ensemble de ces circonstances nous obligent à aviser de notre côté aux moyens de protéger les Chrétiens dont la vie et les propriétés seraient menacées, et afin d'obtenir ce résultat, d'avoir en vue l'entrée d'une partie de nos troupes à Constantinople.

No. 423.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 191.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 10, 1878, 4·30 P.M.

NEITHER Italian nor French Representative has carried out his instructions to ask for a Firman for the entry of ships-of-war into Dardanelles; but, presuming that they had been given under a mistaken impression that disturbances were imminent here, they have asked their Governments to repeat them before acting.

No. 424.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 192.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 10, 1878, 6·10 P.M.

I AM informed that Safvet, and perhaps Sadyk, Pashas have been named Turkish Plenipotentiaries for negotiating preliminaries of peace. They will leave to-morrow afternoon. M. Nelidoff is named second Russian Plenipotentiary. General Ignatiew is arrived at Adrianople.

No. 425.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 193. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 10, 1878, 7 P.M.

IF Her Majesty's Government think it absolutely necessary that the fleet should come to Constantinople, I judge, from what Prime Minister tells me, that the Porte will limit itself to protesting and informing Russians that fleet entered Straits in spite of such protest. The fear of an immediate Russian occupation of Constantinople prevents the Porte giving the Firman.

No. 426.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February* 10, 1878, 2·15 P.

I SEE no objection to Colonel Wellesley returning to his post. Prince Gortchakow lately spoke to me with great praise and satisfaction of his attitude and language in London. The feeling here among all classes is intensely bitter against England.

No. 427.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February* 10, 1878, 5·45 P.M.

A SEMI-OFFICIAL leading article in the "Agence Russe," in notifying passage of Dardanelles of English fleet to Constantinople, observes that this decision of English Cabinet, although based it is said on necessity of protecting Christian population of Constantinople, apparently restore freedom of action to Russian. If presence of fleet in Bosphorus, as proposed by Russia in Berlin Memorandum, is intended to co-operate for maintenance of order and for serious just solution of Eastern question, it will be received as an auxiliary. Under all circumstances the conduct of Russia will be guided by attitude of England.

No. 428.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, February* 10, 1878.

GERMAN Government have only one available iron-clad at Salonica. Prince Reuss has been asked whether it is required at Constantinople or not. No answer has yet been received.

No. 429.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February* 10, 1878, 6 P.M.

NOTHING known of any advance of Servians since one week ago, when orders were issued to stop hostilities. My Austrian colleague disbelieves report mentioned in telegram from Bosna-Serai. It is certain, however, that preparations continue both here and in Russia as if some new war was to commence shortly.

No. 430.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, February* 11, 1878.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informed me this morning that Greek troops had all re-entered Greek territory. Turkish Minister, whom I saw later, said that Turkish Consul at Lamia had informed him that all the Greek troops would have left Turkish territory by this evening.

(Above sent to Constantinople.)

No. 431.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 11, 3·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February* 11, 1878, 1·5 P.M.

FRENCH Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople reports that he and the Italian Minister were on the point of asking for Firmans, when they learnt that the English fleet had appeared in the Dardanelles, that the Turks had objected to its passing, and that it had returned to Besika Bay. French Chargé d'Affaires adds that in consequence he and his colleague have suspended the application for the Firman, and ask for further orders.

He says that Constantinople is quiet, and foreigners at present in no danger.

French Government does not cancel the order to apply for the Firman, but waits for further intelligence before confirming it.

The impression made on the French Minister for Foreign Affairs is that there must be an offensive and defensive alliance between Turkey and Russia.

No. 432.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 11, 3·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February* 11, 1878, 1·25 P.M.

HAVAS Agency publishes this morning, evidently on authority, a statement that the news given by the "Presse" of Vienna, that some French iron-clads had been ordered to Constantinople, is inaccurate.

M. Waddington explains that this is simply a statement that the whole French fleet had been sent to Constantinople, and assures me that it does not imply any change in the views of the French Government.

(Confidential.)—This explanation seems rather lame.

No. 433.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 11, 1878, 3·40 P.M.

IT is absolutely necessary that British ships should go up to Constantinople. Her Majesty's Government quite understand the position of the Porte, and its reluctance to incur the responsibility of granting a Firman.

They intend to order up the ships without delay, and are confident that the Porte will not commit the imprudence of resorting to force against a friendly Power, in order to prevent a measure of precaution which circumstances have rendered indispensable. Press the Porte to lose no time in giving orders to the forts not to resist the passage.

Please acknowledge the receipt of this telegram by telegraph at once.

No. 434.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 11.)

(No. 26. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February* 11, 1878.

I AM secretly informed that an important communication was sent by telegraph last evening to Count Schouvaloff. I could not ascertain its exact nature, and was unable to see Prince Gortchakow to-day, although I called three times. This communication, I believe, refers to presence of British fleet at Constantinople.

German Ambassador at Constantinople has telegraphed that perfect order reigns in that city. The seat for proposed Conference not yet decided.

No. 435.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 11.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *St Petersburgh, February* 11, 1878.

SINCE addressing my previous telegram of to-day, I learn from a secret authentic source that orders have been sent to Russian Commander-in-chief to occupy Constantinople with the consent of Sultan.

No. 436.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 11.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 11, 1878.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW'S answer sets forth his objections to Conference being held in any great capital, and Count Andrassy seems willing to defer to his wish, so as not to lose time by insisting that it should be at Vienna.

No. 437.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, February* 11, 6·15 P.M.

THE following orders have been telegraphed to Admiral Hornby:—

"Proceed at daylight on Wednesday without waiting for Firman.

"If fired upon by the forts, and ships are struck, return fire, but do not wait to silence forts unless absolutely necessary to insure passage of fleet into the Sea of Marmora.

"Take with you such force as you may think necessary for safety, and take up position near Constantinople, so as to be safe from surprises or torpedo attack.

"Prince's Island anchorage suggested.

"You are at liberty to leave one or two ships near Gallipoli to observe Straits.

"Telegraph ships you propose to leave at Besika Bay. One or two must be left."

No. 438.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 11, 1878, 6·30 P.M.

THE Russian Ambassador communicated to me to-day the following telegram from Prince Gortchakow, dated yesterday:—

"The British Government, on the reports of their Ambassador at Constantinople, have decided to take advantage of a Firman previously obtained to send a portion of their fleet to Constantinople in order to protect the lives and security of British subjects. Other Powers have adopted the same measures on behalf of their subjects. This combination of circumstances ("l'ensemble de ces circonstances") compels us to consider on our part the means of protecting the Christians whose lives and properties may be menaced, and, with a view to obtain this result, to have in view the entry of a portion of our troops into Constantinople."

I asked his Excellency for a more definite explanation as to the meaning of this telegram; whether the Russian Government intended that the entry into Constantinople was to be for the protection of the Christians whom they considered in danger, or whether it was a point of military honour that the Russian flag should be displayed there if England and other foreign countries showed theirs.

His Excellency promised that he would inquire.

No. 439.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 11, 1878.

WITH reference to Mr. Layard's telegram of Saturday, repeated to you to-day, ask Greek Government if Her Majesty's Government may give the required assurance.

No. 440.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 11, 7 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February* 11, 1878, 4 P.M.

COUNT CORTI, in reply to instructions desiring him to apply for Firmans for two Italian ships to go to Constantinople, has telegraphed to say, in consequence of perfect tranquillity of town and faithful observance of stipulations of armistice, he had, in concert with his French colleague, decided on not asking for Firman without further orders. None have been sent to him.

Last night at 10·30 M. Depretis received a communication from the Russian Ambassador, stating that if England or any other country sent ships to Constantinople for protection of their countrymen, Russian troops would march in for protection of Christians.

M. Depretis does not believe in secret alliance between Russia and Turkey.

His Excellency hears Prince Bismarck wishes to hasten meeting of Conference, which he takes as a favourable sign for peace.

I think it would be of great advantage if your Lordship could furnish me with views of Her Majesty's Government on the principal points to be discussed, as M. Depretis is most anxious for a previous understanding with us as well as Austria.

News of the English fleet having been stopped entering the Dardanelles by counter-orders is reported by Count Corti in telegram dated 4·30 yesterday afternoon.

No. 441.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 195.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 11, 1878.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that it is absolutely necessary that Her Majesty's ships should proceed to Constantinople, and Her Majesty's Government intend to order them up without delay.

They quite understand the position of the Porte, and its reluctance to incur the responsibility of granting a Firman; but they are confident that the Porte will not commit the imprudence of resorting to force against a friendly Power in order to prevent a measure of precaution which circumstances have rendered indispensable.

Your Excellency will urge the Porte to lose no time in giving orders to the forts not to resist the passage of Her Majesty's ships.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 442.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 197. Secret and Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 11, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency, for your information, a copy of the instructions which have been sent this day to Admiral Hornby, ordering him to proceed through the Dardanelles.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 443.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 130.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 11, 1878.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, dated yesterday, which the Russian Ambassador placed in my hands this morning.

I have stated to Count Schouvaloff that I should be glad to receive a more definite explanation as to the meaning of this telegram, whether it was intended by the Russian Government that the entry of their troops into Constantinople was to be for the protection of the Christians whom they considered in danger or whether it was a point of military honour that if England and other foreign nations showed their flags at Constantinople that of Russia should also be displayed there.

His Excellency promised that he would ask his Government for an explanation on this point.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 444.

The Earl of Derby to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

My Lords, *Foreign Office, February* 11, 1878.

WITH reference to the Admiralty letter of this day's date, forwarding copies of two telegrams from Admiral Hornby, reporting that he was awaiting further orders at Besika Bay, I have the honour to state to your Lordships that it has been decided by the Queen and Her Majesty's Government that the fleet should proceed through the Dardanelles without waiting for a further Firman, and should take up a position near Constantinople; and I have to request that your Lordships will cause the necessary orders to be given accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 445.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 2. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, January 1, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that no military intelligence of any importance has come to my knowledge since the confirmation of the taking of Pirot (Sharkioi, in Turkish). The engagement at that place turns out, however, to have been much more severe than was admitted at first.

As the principal object of Servia is to occupy a large tract of conterminous country, the report of an intended offer of mediation between the belligerents by Her Majesty's Government produced naturally a deep impression here.

It was feared that an armistice might check any further advance of the Servian militia, and interfere with the existing plans.

Much reliance is placed here on the visible sympathies of Italy and on the alleged dispositions of Germany in favour of Servia.

A new Representative has been accredited to Prince Milan by the French Government, and has arrived here at a moment when that Prince is at war with the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 446.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 5. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, January 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the promulgation of a Decree by which certain existing Custom-house regulations established by Firmans of the Porte on the subject of trade with Turkey have been declared as no longer in force.

This is done on the plea that this Principality has become a sovereign State quite independent of the Porte, and that therefore the former Hatts and Firmans are no longer binding.

It is expected that some further measures of the same kind are about to be adopted, as it is intended to create as far as possible a *fait accompli* in favour of totally independent rights.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 447.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 7. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, January 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, whilst Kourshoumlie has been retaken possession of by a Turkish force, Nisch has capitulated last night.

That ancient fortress, which is considered as belonging to old Servia, is thus again in possession of the Servians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 448.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 9. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, January 12, 1878.*

AS could be expected, the probability of an armistice between Russia and Turkey is being very much discussed at Belgrade, and all Servians agree in declaring that it is not admissible that Russia will consent to one before her work is accomplished.

Yesterday the Porte sent, through the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, two telegrams in the Turkish language, phonetically spelt in Latin characters, *en clair*, for transmission to the Pashas of Nish and Widdin, across the Servian lines. These telegrams contained instructions to the Turkish Commanders in these two besieged fortresses how they were to act with a view to negotiations for an armistice.

Neither of these messages could be forwarded, as the force before Widdin does not consist either of Servians or even of Russians, but of Roumanian troops, whilst as regards Nish, the Commander of that fortress had capitulated on the previous night, merely stipulating the freedom of the garrison to take their departure without arms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WAITE.

No. 449.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 12. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, January 15, 1878.*

I THINK it right to inform your Lordship that it is believed by well-informed persons at Belgrade that the Grand Duke Nicholas, the Russian Commander-in-chief, will endeavour to delay the conclusion of an armistice until his army reaches Adrianople, and that it is possible that General Ignatiew will be sent there by the Emperor Alexander to conduct the negotiations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 450.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 14. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, January 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that regular possession of Nisch has been taken by the Servians, and that Prince Milan made his solemn entry there yesterday, having been previously invited to do so by a deputation consisting of Mahommedan, Christian, and Jewish notables of that city, where a Servian King had signed a Treaty with a Sultan 500 years ago.

To enable the Servian forces to occupy as quickly as possible more Turkish territory, battalions of second-class militia are being called out for the purpose of relieving the present garrisons holding Turkish towns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 451.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 16. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, January 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the language of the Russian Agents here is by no means compatible with the prospects of a speedy peace, and that, at

any rate, it betrays a desire for territorial changes far greater than those hitherto admitted, and that it may lead Austria to adopt precautionary measures in self-defence, such as, for instance, a military occupation of Bosnia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 452.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 18. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February 1, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Servian troops have occupied up to this time a district of Turkey of some extent, consisting of portions of the Pashalics of Nish and Kossovo, and extending from Pirot and Nish to Vranya.

In all the places occupied by them they have introduced their laws and administration and have organized the local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 453.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 22. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February 4, 1878.*

ON the day before yesterday the news reached Belgrade that Vranya had been taken by the Servians after some very severe fighting.

Last night a telegram was received by the Prince of Servia from the Grand Duke Nicholas, the Russian Commander-in-chief, in consequence of the contents of which orders were issued at once for the immediate stopping of hostilities.

I believe that the Grand Duke also informed his Highness by this telegram that the interests of Servia had been properly secured by the preliminary bases of peace to which the Porte had given its consent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 454.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 1, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 61 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that at yesterday's sitting of the Chamber a vote of confidence in the Government as to its home and foreign policy was passed by 121 votes against 5.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 455.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 64.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 1, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that two steamers with volunteers left the Piræus harbour last night, it is said for the coast of Thessaly.

The Greek steamer which usually leaves the Piræus every Saturday night with mails for Brindisi is, I am informed, not to start to-morrow, having received orders to remain at the disposal of the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 456.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 65.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 1, 1878.*

I HAVE been informed, upon good authority, that a Convention was signed to-day between the Government and the National Bank for a new loan of 10,000,000 drachmes in bank notes (about 333,333*l.*), and that negotiations are going on between the Government and the Ionian Bank for a further loan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 457.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 69.)
My Lord; *Athens, February 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the troops under the orders of General Soutzo crossed the frontiers into Thessaly this morning.

M. Delyanni, Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, called upon me this afternoon, at 2 o'clock, and explained to me that the Government had taken this step, not with a view to conquest or with motives of aggression, but with a purely philanthropic motive; that they had received intelligence that the inhabitants of Thessaly had risen in insurrection; that they had just learned that atrocities had been committed, and that a monastery had been sacked and destroyed; that these events had created a deep impression, and that the Government had in consequence ordered the troops to proceed into Thessaly to protect the lives of Mussulmans and Christians alike; that they had no wish for war, or to break off friendly relations with Turkey; and that they hoped the Porte and the European Powers would consider this step on the part of the Hellenic Government as having been solely adopted with a philanthropic object.

I told M. Delyanni I would at once communicate to your Lordship the substance of his communication. I regret I have not time to write at greater length to-day to your Lordship, as the mail leaves at half-past 4 o'clock.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 458.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 17. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February 4, 1878.*

I HAD this day the honour to report by telegraph to your Lordship that the Roumanian troops are occupying Widdin and Belgradzik, in accordance with the conditions of the armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 459.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 18. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that General Ignatieff arrived in Bucharest last week, and started for Adrianople on Saturday, the 3rd instant. The General is named one of the Plenipotentiaries for the negotiations between Russia and the Porte, and was the bearer of an autograph letter from the Emperor Alexander to Prince Charles.

It is understood that the letter in question contained a demand for the retrocession to Russia of Roumanian Bessarabia, at the same time holding out hopes that this country shall

receive an equivalent, if not a superior, compensation on the right bank of the Danube. The reports relating to the extent of the compensation are various; it is stated that, if possible, Roumania should receive the whole of the Dobrudscha, a line being drawn from Silistria through Schumla and Pravadi, taking the range of hills north of Varna as the frontier, whilst the acquisition of Widdin, together with some districts in the north-eastern part of Servia, where there is alleged to be a considerable population of Wallachian origin, is also mentioned in addition to the Dobrudscha.

Subsequently to the audience with Prince Charles, General Ignatieff had an interview with the Roumanian "Ministers in Council," where it would appear that the General held plain and exceedingly firm language upon the retrocession of Roumanian Bessarabia, and, if rumour be true, spoke in terms calculated to wound every susceptibility of his auditors.

As your Lordship may imagine, this Government finds itself in a position of grave embarrassment; the incident which is now taking place was of course inevitable from the first commencement of the present crisis, and it is even stated that the Government of Prince Charles was informed at a comparatively early date that the contingency in question constituted an essential element in the Russian programme; but whether the latter was the case or not, it must not be forgotten that the Russo-Roumanian Convention of April 1877 stipulated that the existing territorial condition of Roumania should not suffer detriment or alteration. The Article is perfectly clear and admits of no other possible interpretation.

The war policy of Prince Charles' Government has doubtless been directed to meeting this contingency, with the hope that, after the effusion of Roumanian blood, and of millions of francs, which this country does not possess, their territorial integrity would not be infringed.

M. Bratiano's late policy is the subject of much criticism; but the subject is one which is so keenly felt by every Roumanian, that no endeavour will be made to unduly embarrass the Government; but that the party now in power will hereafter be held responsible admits of little doubt.

Closed sittings are taking place both of the Senate and the Chamber, but I am at present unable to indicate to your Lordship the course which may be in contemplation by this Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 460.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 12.)

(No. 12. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, February* 6, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 11, Political, of yesterday's date, on the subject of the movement of the troops, I have the honour to report that the spare cavalry horses therein alluded to, together with further arrivals, making up the total number to 1,500 horses, under the charge of from 500 to 550 men, left Galatz this morning, marching in the direction of Ibrailn.

As regards the wooden huts in the neighbourhood of Focshani mentioned in my despatch above quoted, these are at Fareeni, between Focshani and Ickutch, and I am informed that when the troops were concentrated in the years 1863 and 1867 they provided accommodation for 30,000 men; they have been allowed to fall into disrepair, but it is calculated that, even in their present state, 10,000 men might be quartered there. They still appear to be unoccupied, but troops continue to be conveyed by train on the Jassy Bucharest line.

It appears unlikely that any number of troops will make use of the Galatz Bender line, for the present at any rate, as, in addition to other defects, the bridge over the Pruth is now considered unsafe.

The ice on the Danube has moved so as to fill up the gap which existed, and two nights' frost have strengthened it so that to-day carts are again crossing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 461.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 12.)

(No. 13. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, February* 7, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12, Political, of the 6th instant, on the subject of the movements of troops, I have the honour to report that, from information I have received, I am led to believe that a Russian corps d'armée in the neighbourhood of Bender, said to be the 6th corps, received orders on the 5th instant not to cross the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 462.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February* 12.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 10 *Février*, 1878.

REÇU télégramme No. Spécial 87. Mr. Layard nous a fait part, de son côté, de la décision qu'a prise son Gouvernement d'envoyer six bâtiments de sa flotte à Constantinople.

L'Amiral Hornby s'est dirigé simultanément avec six navires sur les Dardanelles pour franchir le Détroit. Mais nos autorités lui ayant déclaré qu'elles n'étaient pas autorisées à les laisser passer, il a cru devoir retourner à Bésika.

Le Gouvernement Britannique donne pour motif à cette mesure la nécessité où il se trouverait de protéger la vie et les biens des sujets Anglais.

Or, ce motif ne saurait se justifier d'aucune manière. En effet, non seulement l'ordre et la sécurité n'ont jamais été troublés dans la capitale, mais en général il n'y a rien qui puisse les menacer; et sous l'égide tutélaire de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, toute la population de Constantinople, indigène comme étrangère, jouit de la plus parfaite tranquillité.

Le Gouvernement Anglais peut être persuadé que la Sublime Porte continuera à n'épargner aucune mesure pour assurer le repos général et la tranquillité publique dans la capitale.

Je prie votre Excellence donc de faire les démarches nécessaires auprès du Cabinet de St. James pour le décider à revenir sur une mesure qui, par sa nature et son caractère, pourrait provoquer de graves complications.

De notre côté, nous avons fait des démarches dans le même sens auprès de Mr. Layard.

No. 463.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 12.)

(No. 143.)
My Lord, *Paris, February* 11, 1878.

THIS morning, in obedience to the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 103 of the 9th instant, I have stated to M. Waddington, with reference to his communications respecting the Egyptian financial questions, that Her Majesty's Government will be happy to co-operate with that of France in any useful manner not inconsistent with the Khedive's independent administration of Egypt.

M. Waddington is looking carefully into the matter, and will, perhaps, he tells me, make in a short time a definite proposal respecting it to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 464.

The Earl of Derby to M. Gennadius.

Foreign Office, February 12, 1878.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that I have telegraphed to Mr. Layard the substance of the report from the Commander-in-chief of the Greek forces, which you communicated to me yesterday, and have instructed him to bring this statement to the knowledge of the Porte, and to express the earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that proper steps will be taken to repress disorder in the Greek provinces of Turkey.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 465.

The Earl of Derby to Musurus Pasha

Foreign Office, February 12, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE submitted to the Queen and to Her Majesty's Government the telegraphic despatch addressed to your Excellency by the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated the 10th instant, and which your Excellency was good enough to communicate to me yesterday, respecting the decision of Her Majesty's Government to order a detachment of the British fleet to proceed to Constantinople.

I have now the honour of stating to your Excellency in reply that Her Majesty's Government have every confidence in the goodwill of His Majesty the Sultan to protect the lives and properties of British subjects at Constantinople; but after the warnings that Her Majesty's Government have received of the serious apprehension of disturbances in the city in certain eventualities, Her Majesty's Government would not feel justified in exposing British subjects to such dangers without the protection of their own flag.

The delay which is occasioned in the issue of orders for the passage of the Straits, the possible interruption of telegraphic communication, and the distance of the Dardanelles from Constantinople, make it necessary to have Her Majesty's ships stationed nearer to the city, as otherwise the loss of time might allow of irretrievabel disasters occurring. Her Majesty's Government therefore confidently trust that the Porte will not, on consideration, view the adoption of this measure as exceeding the requirements of the actual situation.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 466.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received February 12.)

(Confidential.)

Admiralty, February 11, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Earl of Derby, copies of two telegrams received from Admiral Hornby, dated the 10th and 11th instant, relative to the movements of the squadron under his command.

2. My Lords desire me to add that the proposal at the end of the latter of these telegrams to send Her Majesty's ship "Raleigh" to the assistance of the fugitives at Dedeagatch, &c., has been approved, and instructions have been sent by telegraph this day accordingly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 466.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Besika Bay, February* 10, 1878, 9 A.M.

SENT "Salamis" to Chanak yesterday, and weighed with ships ordered at 6 P.M. When inside Koumkaleh "Salamis" returned. No telegraphic communication from Ambassador. No Firman, and Pasha protests against squadron entering.

Anchored below Koumkaleh for night at 1 A.M.

Pasha received answer from Constantinople:—

"No request made by British Ambassador to Porte contrary to Treaty for squadron to enter. Pasha to enforce Treaty."

Have returned to Besika Bay. No telegraphic communication yet from Ambassador. Am I to proceed by night with ships named, or to force passage by day with whole squadron? Squadron insufficient to attack the three forts at once. Could pass the two lower forts, and silence Medjideh first, then return and silence the lower ones.

If passage is to be kept open, request instructions.

Inclosure 2 in No. 466.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Koumkaleh, February* 11, 1878, 2·30 A.M.

FOLLOWING telegraphic communication just received from Ambassador at Constantinople, namely:—

"Porte has refused Firman. I have telegraphed to Lord Derby for instructions."

I wait further advices from him, and instructions from you. Ambassador at Constantinople asks whether I can assist in embarking fugitives from Dedeagatch and other places to the Dardanelles. Turkish Prime Minister has applied for assistance; as he has no means of removing or relieving starving fugitives. May I send "Raleigh?"

No. 467.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received February 12.)

(Secret.)

Admiralty, February 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Hornby, dated Besika, Monday midnight.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 467.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Koumkaleh, February* 12, 1878, 4·40 A.M.

FOLLOWING message received from Ambassador, Constantinople:—

"Grand Duke has threatened to occupy Constantinople if the fleet passes the Dardanelles. I am (? waiting) instructions from home."

No. 468.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Foreign Office, February 12, 1878.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambas-

sador at Berlin, respecting the communication to the German Government of the order about to be given by Her Majesty's Government for a detachment of the fleet to proceed to Constantinople.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 469.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 194.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 11, 1878.*

PORTE was unable to dismantle altogether Constantinople lines within the three days allowed. It has been obliged to leave nineteen heavy guns, to burn a number of tents, and to destroy stores and materials. According to railway authorities the total number of Russian troops in the whole country south of the Balkans does not exceed 65,000 men, who are in bad condition.

No. 470.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 195.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 11, 1878, 12·50 P.M.*

SERVER PASHA informed Grand Duke Nicholas that Porte had refused permission to English fleet to enter the Dardanelles. His Imperial Highness' answer is the following :—

"I thank you for your communication with regard to attempted entry ('tentative d'entrée') of the English fleet into the Straits. I ( ) approve answer of Sublime Porte, as, if I had feared danger to the Christians and our subjects in the residence of His Majesty the Sultan, I should have been obliged to have recourse to similar measures. However, considering the modified situation which the presence in the capital of a foreign armed force, in violation of the traditional principle of closing the Straits, would cause Porte with respect to the progress of our negotiations, I have considered it my duty to warn the Emperor, in case I should find myself compelled to secure understanding between us by taking corresponding guarantees."

Prime Minister begs me to point out to your Lordship that the fears he entertains of the result of presence of Her Majesty's fleet at Constantinople are not unfounded.

No. 471.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 196. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 11, 1878, 1·15 P.M.*

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS telegraphs to Server Pasha that there are still some matters to arrange with him, and that he is sending M. Onou, the well-known Dragoman of the Russian Embassy, to Constantinople for the purpose. Prime Minister informs me that, notwithstanding the armistice, Servians advanced yesterday into district of Melask, and plundered and burnt several Mussulman villages. He has ordered troops to proceed against them.

No. 472.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 197.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 11, 1878, 3 P.M.*

MR. BLUNT informs me from Adrianople that troops and artillery are being rapidly moved towards Constantinople, and that Russians are expecting to receive many torpedoes, probably in order to impede the navigation of the Dardanelles.

---

* No. 416.

No. 473.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 198.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 11, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, No. 192, Sadullah Bey, Turkish Ambassador at Berlin, will be Second Plenipotentiary to negotiate preliminaries of peace.

No. 474.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 199.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 11, 1878, 5 P.M.*

GOVERNOR-GENERAL of Janina telegraphs to Prime Minister that Governor of Tricola reports that notwithstanding previous retirement of Hellenes from Chourbe, 3,000 regular troops have recommenced siege of that place with eight guns. Number of Hellenic troops and bands in that neighbourhood continually increasing. Governor of Prevesa is expecting passage of Greeks on that side. Greek Minister here has made no communication to Porte respecting withdrawal of troops.

No. 475.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 200.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 11, 1878, 3·35 P.M.*

YOUR telegram of yesterday this moment received. Has your Lordship received mine communicating telegram from Emperor to Sultan, announcing his intention of sending Russian troops to Constantinople if British fleet appears here? If that communication in any way changes decision of Her Majesty's Government I should be informed at once. I have sent your telegram to Porte.

No. 476.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 29.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 11, 1878.*

NO reply to my inquiry. Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that prohibition on export of grain from the Russian Black Sea ports has been revoked, but that torpedoes remain.

No. 477.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 11, 1878, 9 P.M.*

I AM privately informed that Russian Government have given fresh orders abroad for fifty torpedo boats.

No. 478.

Lord Odo Russell the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Berlin, February 12, 1878.*

I AM assured on very good authority that Prince Bismarck is now secretly urging Count Andrassy to oppose a firm and determined resistance to Russian policy, if he can secure the support and co-operation of England, but not otherwise.

No. 479.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, February 12, 1878.*

SOME members of the Revolutionary Committee were arrested here last night; they resisted, and loss of life among soldiers ensued; girls, their accomplices, had burnt all the compromising papers whilst building was being besieged.

No. 480.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 201.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 12, 1878, 12·15 P.M.*

I LEARN secret report that a large number of Russian sailors have been sent down to Odessa and elsewhere from Cronstadt, and that they are to be used for manning the Turkish fleet, of which the Russians will take possession should the British fleet pass the Dardanelles. I have no means of verifying the truth of the rumour, but it might be well to make inquiries on the subject.

No. 481.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 202.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 12, 1878, 1 P.M.*

BRITISH Consul at Smyrna informs me that Austrian corvette "Gazelle" has received orders to proceed to Gallipoli.

No. 482.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 12, 1878, 3·15 P.M.*

COUNT BEUST has informed me that Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to apply for Firman for two ships-of-war to enter Dardanelles, and that they hear that Italy has asked for same privilege "in case of need."

Austria will wish their ships and those of Italy to enter Dardanelles at the same time, and is very desirous that they should enter at once, and not make entry depend on the "case of need."

Austrian Government have asked Her Majesty's Government to represent this to Government of Italy, and to support their request, which you are authorized to do accordingly.

No. 483.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 12, 1878.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 11th, inform Italian Government that English ships directed to proceed to Constantinople have not been countermanded. They will be on their way there to-morrow. We have little doubt but that the Russians intend to enter Constantinople.

You will be furnished hereafter with a statement of the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the policy to be pursued in Conference.

No. 484.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 109.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 12, 1878, 3·45 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government approve the language you held to Count Andrassy on the subject of the Conference, as reported in your telegram No. 16 of the 9th instant.

No. 485.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 12, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Government have no objections to offer as to place of meeting of Conference, which they willingly leave to the Austrian Government.

Has Prince Gortchakow accepted the Conference without reserve? If not, what are the conditions of his acceptance, irrespective of place of meeting?

No. 486.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 12, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, No. 18, your language as to the fleet is approved. There has been no question of recalling the ships. They will proceed to Constantinople to-morrow. Remind Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government have now taken all the steps suggested by him. The vote is obtained, and the fleet sent up.

We believe Russians will almost certainly enter Constantinople on some pretext.

Is the Austrian Government prepared to make any move? The sending of Austrian ships to join those of England would have a good effect.

No. 487.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 12, 1878.*

INFORM French Government that English ships directed to proceed to Constantinople will be on their way there to-morrow.

We have little doubt but that the Russians intend to enter Constantinople.

No. 488.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 12, 1878.*

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires has communicated to me a telegram from his Government stating that the Commander-in-chief of the Greek troops has reported that, after the departure of the Greek troops, the inhabitants of the Christian villages were emigrating in all haste, abandoning all their possessions to the Circassians and Gheghas.

Their retreat was so hurried that the soldiers found new-born infants deserted in the middle of the road. The situation of the inhabitants of Thessaly was desperate.

You will bring the above statement to the knowledge of the Porte, and express the earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that proper steps may be taken to repress disorder in the Greek provinces of Turkey.

You will inquire and report to me what are the facts as to the alleged panic.

No. 489.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12, 6.20 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February 12, 1878, 4:30 P.M.*

M. DEPRETIS has read to me a telegram from Count Corti, explaining reasons for not applying for Firman, which is in complete conformity with my report of yesterday, and does not allude to the Turks having refused entry to British fleet. His Excellency has not withdrawn or confirmed original instructions on this matter, but awaits further intelligence. He thinks it desirable not to afford Russia a pretext for entering Constantinople; but if public tranquillity became really menaced, he does not see how the Powers are to leave their subjects without protection.

He has nothing to confirm belief expressed by M. Waddington to Lord Lyons and also to Italian Chargé d'Affaires in an offensive and defensive alliance between Russia and Turkey, and is inclined to think that the refusal of the Turks to allow fleet to enter is probably only attributable to fear of bringing the Russians into Constantinople. If, however, this alliance should exist, fleets might be caught in a mouse-trap. His Excellency hears that Russians are concentrating large forces at Ploesti. He had been also informed that Count Andrassy had consented to the Conference in any town selected by Russia.

There will be seven Italian iron-clads, besides other vessels, in the neighbourhood of Salonica at the end of this month.

No. 490.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 12, 1878, 8:5 P.M.*

MUSURUS PASHA communicated yesterday a telegram from Porte respecting entry of fleet. It states that this measure cannot be justified by necessity of protecting British subjects, as order and security have never been disturbed at Constantinople, and there is in general nothing that can menace them, and the whole population of Constantinople, native and foreign, enjoys the most perfect tranquillity under the ægis of the Sultan. The English Government may be sure that the Porte will continue to take every measure for securing public tranquillity in the capital.

I have stated to Musurus Pasha, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government have every confidence in good-will of Sultan to protect British subjects at Constantinople; but after the warnings they have received of the serious apprehension of disturbances in the city in certain eventualities, they would not feel justified in exposing British subjects to such dangers without the protection of their own flag. The delay occasioned in the issue of orders for the passage of the Straits, the possible interruption of telegraphic communication, and the distance of the Dardanelles from Constantinople make it necessary to have Her Majesty's ships stationed nearer to the city, as otherwise the loss of time might allow of irretrievable disasters occurring. Her Majesty's Government therefore confidently trust that the Porte will not, on consideration, view the adoption of this measure as exceeding the requirements of the actual situation.

No. 491.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 198.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 12, 1878.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 111 of the 23rd ultimo, inclosing an extract from a letter from Mr. Black, of Adrianople, relative to the able manner in which Mr. Consul Blunt has exerted himself in the protection of British interests; and I have to express to your Excellency my satisfaction at this testimony to Mr. Blunt's conduct in the trying circumstances in which he has been placed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 492.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 199.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 12, 1878.*

I HAVE to express to your Excellency my approval of Mr. Longworth's proceedings, as reported in your despatch No. 118 of the 25th ultimo, and its inclosures, relative to two petitions given to him by the inhabitants of Kokinoplos, a Christian village of Mount Olympus.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 493.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 200.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 12, 1878.*

I APPROVE the steps taken by your Excellency, as reported in your despatch No. 125 of the 25th ultimo, with a view to convey to Admiral Hornby the instructions of Her Majesty's Government not to enter the Straits with the British fleet, but to remain at anchor in Besika Bay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 494.

The Earl of Derby to Mr Layard.

(No. 203.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 12, 1878.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a telegram which the Greek Chargé d'Affaires has received from his Government, and which he communicated to me,* stating that the Commander-in-chief of the Greek troops had reported that, on the withdrawal of these troops, the inhabitants of the Christian villages were flying in haste, and abandoning all their possessions to the Circassians and Gheghas, and that great misery prevailed.

I have to instruct your Excellency to bring this statement to the knowledge of the Porte, and to express the earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that proper steps may be taken to repress disorder in the Greek provinces of Turkey.

Your Excellency will also make inquiries, and report to me what are the facts as to the panic which is stated to exist among the inhabitants.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 495

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 205.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 12, 1878.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a telegram, dated the 10th instant, which Musurus Pasha had received from his Government, and a copy of which his Excellency placed in my hands, respecting the entry of the British fleet into the Straits.†

I also inclose a copy of the reply which I have made to the Turkish Ambassador.‡

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

---

* No. 421. † No. 462. ‡ No. 465.

No. 496.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 110.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 12, 1878.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you have used to Count Andrassy on the subject of the proposed Conference, as reported in your telegraphic despatch of the 9th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 497.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 112.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 12, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday's date, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the language you held as to the fleet. There has been no question of recalling Her Majesty's ships, and they will proceed to Constantinople to-morrow.

I beg your Excellency to remind Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government have now taken all the steps which his Excellency suggested. The vote of credit has been passed by the House of Commons and the fleet sent up.

Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe that the Russians are almost certain to enter Constantinople on some pretext.

They wish you to ask Count Andrassy if the Austrian Government are prepared to make any move in the matter, and to suggest that if Austrian ships were sent to join Her Majesty's ships at Constantinople it would have a good effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 498.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 114.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 12, 1878.

I HAVE to request your Excellency to inform Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government have no objection to offer as to place of meeting of Conference, which they willingly leave to be arranged by the Austrian Government.

Her Majesty's Government desire that you will ascertain if Prince Gortchakow has accepted the Conference without reserve, and in the event of his Highness not having done so, what are the conditions of his acceptance irrespective of place of meeting.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 499.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 87 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 12, 1878.

COUNT BEUST called upon me yesterday and communicated to me a Memorandum which his Excellency had received from his Government, instructing him to inform me that Count Zichy had been directed to apply to the Porte for a Firman authorizing two Austrian ships-of-war to enter the Dardanelles with a view of proceeding to Constantinople.

The Austrian Ambassador at Rome had, it appeared, informed his Government that that of Italy had also applied for a Firman to enable two of their ships to enter the Dardanelles "en cas de besoin."

The Italian fleet was reported to be at Salonica.

The Memorandum concluded with an intimation that it would be agreeable to

Austria that their ships should enter the Dardanelles at the same time with those of Italy, and it was requested that Her Majesty's Government would exercise their influence in order to determine the Italian Government not to make the entry of their ships into the Dardanelles depend upon a case of need ("un cas de besoin") arising, but to put this measure into execution at once.

I have accordingly to request that your Excellency will represent this matter to the Italian Government, and you are at the same time authorized to support the request of the Austrian Government to which I have above referred.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 500.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 90 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 12, 1878.

I HAVE to authorize your Excellency, in reply to your telegram of the 11th instant, to inform the Italian Government that the English ships have been ordered to enter the Dardanelles and to proceed to Constantinople, and that they will be on their way thither to-morrow.

Her Majesty's Government entertain little doubt but that the Russians intend to enter that capital.

Your Excellency will hereafter be furnished with a statement explanatory of the views of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the policy which should be pursued in the Conference whenever it assembles.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 501.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 116 A.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 12, 1878.

I HAVE to request that your Excellency will inform the French Government that the English ships have been ordered to enter the Dardanelles and to proceed to Constantinople, and that they will be on their way there to-morrow.

Her Majesty's Government entertain little doubt but that it is the intention of the Russians to enter Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 502.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 21. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, January* 27, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that, by a Decree of the Administrative Council of this Province, a Special Committee of nine Mussulmans and six Christians was appointed at the beginning of the week to carry out the provisions of the Firman relating to the Civic Guard, which was lately published here, as reported in my despatch No. 13 of the 14th instant.

The Christian Commissioners having understood that their Mussulman colleagues intended to render compulsory also for their co-religionists the service in the Civic Guard, they withdrew, objecting that they could come to no decision without consulting first with their communities.

This incident caused the greatest excitement among the Christians; the influential members of the different communities held separate meetings in which they decided to address, and addressed protests signed by nearly all the Christians to their respective religious authorities.

I cannot say how far is grounded the report that the Pasha and a few Mussulmans, in order to be agreeable to their Government, had devised the scheme to compel the Christians to serve, or perhaps to exact exemption money from them. But the fact is that the Greek and the Armenian prelates having called this morning on the Pasha to communicate the protest of their co-religionists, they were told that they were under a false impression, it never having been the intention of the Government to admit them in the Civic Guard otherwise than as volunteers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 503.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 24. Political.)

Trebisond, February 2, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that General Hayman has allowed the French Consul at Erzeroum to send official despatches to Trebizond. The messenger forwarded by him arrived here yesterday evening with letters of the 25th ultimo.

In one of these the following information is given :—

The cold was intense, 20 degrees below zero, and the population suffering very severely from want of fuel. The authorities in order to procure wood had pulled down nearly all the hans, and had also begun to demolish private houses which were purchased for the purpose.

A Turkish officer who had been allowed to enter the town of Erzeroum on the 13th had brought in a telegram from the Seraskier conveying the news of an armistice. Ismail Pasha having communicated the information to the Russian camp, the Grand Duke Michel answered that he had no instructions on the subject, and advised the surrender of the town, he being decided to carry it by force.

In consequence of the quantity of snow which covered the surrounding ground a general attack on Erzeroum was considered impossible, but it was expected that destitution and want of provisions would compel the beleaguered town to surrender towards the end of February.

I am glad to have to add that Dr. Ryan, Messrs. Morisot and Williams, who were reported in my despatch No. 15 of the 18th ultimo to be very seriously ill, were convalescing slowly.

The so-called British hospitals, two in number, were full, though there was great want of doctors; there was, in fact, only one English surgeon, Dr. Denniston, to work in them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 504.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 7. Political.)

Salonica, February 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 2nd instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the arrival of a part of the Italian squadron, the latest news from Thessaly, and the influx of Circassians at Cavalla.

Also a copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, informing him of the telegrams sent with reference to the disorders committed by Albanians near Monastir, and the measures taken by the Governor-General to procure transports to embark the Circassians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 504.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Salonica, February 2, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith inclosed, copies of my despatches addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State by last post.

I had the honour yesterday to telegraph to your Excellency as follows :—

"Italian squadron, composed of six ironclads, is to be stationed here; two of them have arrived to-day, rest are to follow." And to-day I telegraphed again :—

"Italian Admiral in command of squadron expected here daily in flag-ship 'Roma.' Another iron-clad, the 'Terribile,' arrived to-day." And to-day I telegraphed also as follows :—

"Some villages, district of Volo, joined volunteers. Formed provisional Government at Millicss, on Mount Pilion. Strong body of Greeks crossed the frontiers near Dimoko and Armyro."

This last intelligence has come from Mr. Borrell, Acting British Vice-Consul at Volo, and also Italian Vice-Consul; and I have the honour to inclose copy of his despatch.

There does not appear, however, to be any immediate fear of disturbance at Volo itself. But your Excellency will be pleased to observe how different this account is from that which I received from our Vali, and which I reported to the Secretary of State in my despatch No. 6.

At 3 P.M. to-day I received a telegram from five Vice-Consuls of European States at Cavalla, the like of which has also been telegraphed to their respective Consuls in this city, to beg that a man-of-war of any nation be sent to them to protect them and all the Mussulman and Christian inhabitants of Cavalla under the pressure of a great influx of Circassians who have come down from the seat of war to Cavalla to embark, and in the fear that the town and neighbouring villages will be unable to furnish a sufficiency of food for them, that they would pillage it. They pray also that the Governor-General of Salonica be petitioned to find means of transporting them by sea to Asia Minor, declaring they are very anxious to go, but have no vessels to embark in.

I have the honour to inclose a translation of this telegram.

The Italian iron-clad "Terribile" grounded in coming in near the mouth of the River Vardar, and the two other iron-clads are gone to her assistance.

There is a report here that there has been some severe fighting between the Servians and the Ottomans at or in the defile Kourchoomlee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

P.S.—Before closing I have just received authentic information that at Volo an assembly of the Mahommedan Beys and influential Christians was held, who sent a deputation to the Chiefs of the volunteers begging them to return to Greece, and not bring on them and the whole country misery and misfortunes, which would certainly result from their scheme of raising an insurrection.

Inclosure 2 in No. 504.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Salonica, February 6, 1878.

CONFIRMING my last despatch of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I telegraphed to you on the 4th instant as follows :—

"Received telegram from Knapitch Monastir to beg your Excellency will procure order from Porte to Commander of troops to allow Mutessarif Monastir 300 Redifs to repress Albanians committing dreadful cruelties on villagers, mentioned in my despatch No. 10. Knapitch also telegraphs direct to Austro-Hungarian Ambassador."

Yesterday I received a telegram in Turkish from Cavalla, translation of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, and which I communicated to his Excellency the Vali. He requested me to telegraph to your Excellency, which I did as follows :—

"Number of Circassians here and at Cavalla has become a real danger. Vali has telegraphed for large transports, but receives no answer; begs your Excellency's influence to hasten their arrival, in fear of a catastrophe."

I telegraphed in Turkish to Cavalla as follows:—

"We have received your telegram of yesterday. The Vali has telegraphed three times to the Porte for transports to embark Circassians. Tell the Chiefs of Circassians that it is quite impossible for the mail steamers to take them as passengers, therefore they must wait until the transports come."

Captain Wilson, of Her Majesty's iron-clad "Research," has telegraphed, on the 3rd instant, to the Admiral to know whether he should go or remain, and he received yesterday a reply to telegraph to Cavalla to know if Mr. Peschioli or any British subjects wished to be taken off, and if so, to go to Cavalla, but to return here. As the reply has not been received, and the French mail is leaving for Constantinople, I must close this despatch.

The Italian iron-clad "Terribile" has been got off the sand-bank, and there are now here three Italian iron-clads, "San Martino," "Affondatore," and "Terribile," and a French iron-clad "Couronne." The "Palestro" and "Gauloise" are expected.

The "Scylla" (Italian) and the "Buisson" (French) are getting up their steam to leave, but their destination is not known.

Nothing fresh from Thessaly.

The Vali, who is a prudent man, fears if transports be not sent that he will not be able to maintain order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 505.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 163.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith three copies of the official text of the preliminaries of peace concluded on the 31st January, at Adrianople, between the Grand Duke Nicholas and the Turkish Delegates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 505.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of January 27/February 8, 1878.

St. Pétersbourg, le 26 *Janvier*, 1878.

LES bases préalables à la conclusion de l'armistice, qui vient de suspendre les hostilités, ayant été acceptées et signées par les Plénipotentiaires Turcs au Quartier-Général, nous sommes en mesure d'en publier le texte. Nous rappellerons que ces bases n'ont pour but que de délimiter le terrain sur lequel la paix définitive peut être négociée ultérieurement, soit entre les belligérants pour les questions qui les concernent exclusivement, soit avec la participation des Grandes Puissances pour les questions qui touchent aux intérêts Européens:—

"*Conditions Préliminaires de Paix remises par M. le Grand-Duc Commandant-en-chef aux Délégués Turcs.*

"Si les Turcs demandaient aux avant-postes la paix ou un armistice, Son Altesse Impériale le Commandant-en-chef devra leur notifier que les hostilités ne sauraient être suspendues que si les bases suivantes étaient préalablement adoptées:

"1. La Bulgarie, dans les limites déterminées par la majorité de la population Bulgare et qui en aucun cas ne sauraient être moindres que celles indiquées par la Conférence de Constantinople, serait érigée en principauté autonome, tributaire, avec un Gouvernement national Chrétien et une milice indigène. L'armée Ottomane n'y séjournerait plus (sauf quelques points à déterminer d'un commun accord).

"2. L'indépendance du Monténégro serait reconnue. Un accroissement de territoire équivalant à celui que l'issue des armes a fait tomber entre ses mains lui serait assuré. La frontière définitive serait fixée ultérieurement.

"3. L'indépendance de la Roumanie et de la Serbie serait reconnue. Un dédommagement territorial suffisant serait assuré à la première et une rectification de frontière à la seconde.

"4. La Bosnie et l'Herzégovine seraient dotées d'une administration autonome avec des garanties suffisantes. Des réformes analogues seraient introduites dans les autres provinces Chrétiennes de la Turquie d'Europe.

"5. La Porte s'engagerait à dédommager la Russie des frais de la guerre et des pertes qu'elle a dû s'imposer. Le mode soit pécuniaire soit territorial ou autre de cette indemnité serait réglé ultérieurement. Sa Majesté le Sultan conviendrait de s'entendre avec Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie pour sauvegarder les droits et les intérêts de la Russie dans les Détroits du Bosphore et des Dardanelles."

En témoignage de l'acceptation de ces bases essentielles, des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans se rendront immédiatement à Odessa ou à Sébastopol pour y négocier avec les Plénipotentiaires Russes des préliminaires de paix.

Aussitôt que l'acceptation de ces conditions préalables sera officiellement notifiée aux Commandants-en-chef des armées Impériales, des Conventions d'Armistice devront être négociées sur les deux théâtres de la guerre et les hostilités pourront être provisoirement suspendues.

Les deux Commandants-en-chef auront la faculté de compléter les conditions ci-dessus, en désignant certains points stratégiques et certaines forteresses qui devront être évacuées, comme garantie matérielle de l'acceptation par la Sublime Porte de nos conditions d'armistice et de son entrée dans la voie des négociations de paix.

No. 506.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 164.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy of a note which I addressed this day to Prince Gortchakow on the receipt of your Lordship's telegram, stating that English doctors had arrived at Constantinople, and had complained of their ill-treatment by the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 506.

Lord A. Loftus to Prince Gortchakoff.

Mon Prince, *St. Petersburgh, February* 8, 1878.

I REGRET to have to inform your Highness that Her Majesty's Government have received information from Constantinople, stating that several English doctors had arrived there, and had complained of having been severely ill-treated by the Russians.

Your Highness will readily understand that this ill-treatment of persons who are courageously and humanely devoting their energies to the alleviation of the horrors of war cannot fail to produce a feeling of astonishment in the heart of every humane person, for it is well-known that the Emperor, with those benevolent feelings which characterizes His Majesty, has enjoined on his Military Commanders the strictest regard to the exercise of humanity and kindly feeling towards those who may fall into their hands.

I have consequently urgently to request your Highness to cause such orders to be given to the Russian Military Commanders as may secure to others similarly circumstanced as the English doctors referred to that humane and considerate treatment which is assured to them under the Geneva Convention.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 507.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No 165.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, February 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy of a note which I addressed this day to Prince Gortchakow, in conformity with your Lordship's instructions, on the reported advance of the Russian armies towards Constantinople, notwithstanding the conclusion of an armistice on the 31st January, and of the consequent possibility of an intention to occupy that city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 507.

Lord A. Loftus to Prince Gortchakow.

St. Petersburgh, February 8, 1878.

Mon Prince,

I AM instructed by the Earl of Derby to inform your Highness that Her Majesty's Government have received information from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople stating that the Russian troops have occupied Tchahadja in considerable force, notwithstanding a protest of the Turkish General, which the Russian General refused to receive.

Her Majesty's Government are also informed that the Russian General, having insisted on the abandonment of the Tchekmedji lines as one of the conditions of the armistice, the Turkish troops have been compelled to retire from them altogether, thus leaving Constantinople undefended.

Her Majesty's Government cannot but regard this step as pointing to an immediate occupation of Constantinople, for which no reasons of military necessity now exist, the Turkish resistance having ceased, and orders having been given to arrest further hostilities.

I am further instructed to recall to your Highness the assurances given by His Majesty the Emperor to Colonel Wellesley at Biela in July last, and which were recorded in a Memorandum drawn up by that officer, and submitted to and approved by His Majesty, stating "that the Emperor will not occupy Constantinople for the sake of military honour, but only if such a step is rendered necessary by the march of events."

In fulfilling the instructions of the Earl of Derby, I have to request that your Highness will give me an early reply as to the authenticity of the information received by Her Majesty's Government with respect to the advance of the Russian armies, and which I trust will be of a nature to relieve the fears entertained in regard to an intended occupation of Constantinople, or of its defensive lines, by Russian forces.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 508.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 140.)
My Lord,

Paris, February 11, 1878.

M. WADDINGTON told me this morning that he had received in the night the answer of M. de Moüy, the French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, to the telegram instructing him to apply to the Porte for a Firman for two French iron-clads to pass the Dardanelles.

It appeared, he said, that M. de Moüy and the Italian Minister, Count Corti, were on the point of applying for the Firmans when they were informed that the English fleet had made its appearance in the Dardanelles, but had returned to Besika Bay without passing the Straits.

They learned that the Turkish authorities had made objections to the passage of the English fleet, but they did not know the exact nature of these objections. Under these circumstances both M. de Moüy himself and his Italian colleague had thought it right to abstain for the moment from making the applications for the Firmans, and to ask their respective Governments for further orders.

M. Waddington told me, moreover, that M. de Moüy reported that foreigners were in no immediate danger at Constantinople, and that the city was at the moment quiet.

M. Waddington observed to me that he must confess that the impression made upon his mind was that Turkey must have entered into an alliance, offensive and defensive, with Russia.

He went on to say that the French Government did not withdraw the instruction to their Chargé d'Affaires to apply for the Firman, but that before repeating it they must wait for further intelligence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 509.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 141.)
My Lord,

Paris, February 11, 1878.

LATE last night, in the publication called the "Agence Havas," there appeared under the head of "Informations," the following paragraph:—

"La nouvelle donnée par la presse de Vienne que des cuirassés de la flotte Française auraient reçu l'ordre de se rendre à Constantinople est inexacte."

As statements published in this manner are understood to be made upon authority, I thought it right to ask M. Waddington what was to be understood by the paragraph in question.

He answered that its contents were certainly true, and that they amounted simply to a contradiction of an exaggerated statement in a Vienna newspaper that the whole French fleet had been ordered to Constantinople. He proceeded to observe that, as I knew, no French ship-of-war had yet been actually dispatched to that place.

In reply to a further question, M. Waddington assured me that the publication of this contradiction did not imply any change in the views of the French Government with regard to the question of sending neutral ships-of-war to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 510.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 142. Very Confidential.)
My Lord,

Paris, February 11, 1878.

IN the telegram recorded in my despatch No. 139, and extended in my despatch No. 141, both of to-day, I have given your Lordship M. Waddington's explanation of the denial that French ships have been ordered to Constantinople, which has been published evidently by direction of the French Government.

In a confidential paragraph in my telegram I observed that this explanation seemed rather lame.

In fact the paragraph does not simply, as M. Waddington appeared to suppose, contradict an exaggerated statement that the whole French squadron was ordered to Constantinople; on the contrary it affirms that the statement that "some" French ships have been ordered to go there is incorrect; and it is difficult to conceive that it is not intended to convey the impression that there is no question at all of sending French ships up the Dardanelles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 511.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 145. Secret.)

Paris, February 12, 1878.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship will not have failed to remark that since the Duc Decazes went out of office on 22nd November last there has been a change in the language of the French Government with regard to the Eastern question.

The Duc Decazes acted as a partisan of Russia, and almost always appeared to be especially solicitous to render himself personally acceptable to the Russian Government. On the other hand, he bitterly resented the purchase of the Suez Canal shares by England. His policy with regard to Egypt was, if he was not very much belied, not a little influenced by his relations with the Crédit Foncier Company and other companies or individuals interested in Egyptian stock. At any rate, it was plain that, for some reason or other, the English purchase of the Canal shares was extremely disagreeable to him personally, and to a certain degree affected his feelings and his conduct towards England. He made, indeed, considerable exertions to keep France and England on good terms; he was always friendly in his language, and in many questions conciliatory in his conduct; but the old grudge seemed to remain at bottom. He had little regard even for those interests in the Levant usually held to be common to England and France, and in his communications with England on the Eastern question his main object seemed to be to bring her round to Russian views, and to obtain with the Russian Government the credit of having done so.

The Marquis de Banneville, who was the Duc Decazes' immediate successor, and M. Waddington, who has succeeded M. de Banneville, have pursued a different course. They have frankly stated to me, in conversation, that they regard French and English interests in the Levant as nearly identical; that the interests of both are imperilled by Russian ambition; and that, so far as the peculiar condition of France will admit, the two countries should act together for the defence of those interests.

Still I feel bound to repeat at this moment, without any modification, the opinion I have so often expressed to your Lordship, that it would be very unsafe for England to reckon upon receiving any effectual assistance, moral or material, from France in resisting Russian aggression in the East.

It is evident, in the first place, that France is paralyzed by the fear of an attack from Germany, and is, on the one hand, unwilling to run any risk of offending that Power; and, on the other, afraid to diminish her means of resisting the invasion which she always believes to be imminent. Your Lordship will not have forgotten that the French Government did not venture to support officially even the moderate initiative taken by Her Majesty's Government at the end of last year in inquiring whether the Emperor of Russia was willing to listen to overtures of peace. Your Lordship will remember also that the French Government did not join in the declaration of Her Majesty's Government as to the invalidity of arrangements made without the participation of the Treaty Powers, and that it has never even given a formal answer to the request to it to do so. Nor will it have escaped your Lordship's observation that the concurrence of the French Government in sending ships to Constantinople was not given without communication with Berlin, and that a hasty contradiction to the report that ships had been sent was published directly it appeared that the measure might be opposed by Russia.

These examples are sufficient to show that even M. Waddington, the present Minister for Foreign Affairs, whose personal opinions on the Eastern question appear to be sound, does not feel at liberty to commit the French Government to anything like an active assertion of them, in opposition either to Germany or to Russia.

So far as my present experience enables me to judge, I feel bound to say that I have confidence in M. Waddington's assurances that the French Government, so long as he directs its Foreign Affairs, will not listen to proposals to aggrandize France at the expense of other nations. But M. Waddington's tenure of his present office cannot be regarded as secure. The facts of his being a Protestant, of English extraction, and of English education, and of his wife being an American, are brought forward against him by many even of his own party, and especially by the subordinates in his own office. Besides this, the long continuance in power of the Ministry to which he belongs cannot be counted upon with certainty. That Ministry, though commanding a large majority in the Chamber of Deputies, is in a minority in the Senate, and the consequences of its being out-voted in the Upper House upon a measure of importance

might be very serious. In the end, changes of Ministry in this country have of late years tended to throw power more and more to the Left; and the complete failure of the attempt made by the Marshal-President on the 16th May to counteract this tendency is not likely to encourage a repetition of any such experiment.

It may, however, be doubted whether a Ministry of more advanced Liberals, composed as it must be of men little versed in diplomatic affairs, would be proof against temptations to gratify popular feeling at the expense of prudence. Your Lordship is aware that a close understanding with Germany is not rejected from the creed of the ultra-Left party; and if that party should be beguiled into believing that it had found security in such an understanding, it might be easily led to make use of the restored naval and military strength of France with a view to gratifying the popular craving for military renown or territorial aggrandizement; and it is certainly not to united action with England in the East that popular feeling would point.

The prospect of the Right party coming into power is very small. With regard to that party, therefore, it may suffice to say that the criticisms of the English press upon its endeavour to maintain itself in office in spite of the majority of the Chamber of Deputies have produced in it a feeling towards England of extreme exasperation.

It may, I presume, be taken for granted that Germany would not tolerate any considerable extension of French territory in Europe. It is, therefore, probable that it is to the Mediterranean coast of Africa, and especially to Egypt, that any ambitious designs on the part of France would be directed. If a Conference were held in the present state of Europe the aim of France might be simply to establish such a joint protectorate or joint guarantee as would fetter any independent action of England in Egypt—in short, to counteract the superior influence which the great preponderance of English interests would naturally give to England. But if matters become embroiled, France might take active measures to establish on the Nile and on the Suez Canal a predominance of her own. Some time ago France seemed to consider an English occupation of Egypt to be inevitable, and to be prepared to acquiesce in it. She is now, perhaps, on the look-out for an opportunity of checking English influence and establishing her own. In short, it seems to me that if the complications in the Levant should become serious, it will behove England not only to exercise extreme vigilance with regard to Egypt, but to take material precautions against the possibility of her position in that country being endangered.

At any rate, the lack of sympathy on the part of the French public with England in the Eastern question, the desire to conciliate Russia, and the fear of Germany, prevalent in this country, will in all probability be more than sufficient to deter France from giving any efficacious support to England in the affairs of the Levant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 512.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February* 13.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 12 *Février*, 1878.

NOUS avons reçu simultanément un avis de l'Ambassade Britannique qui annonce que la flotte Anglaise entrera même sans autorisation demain à l'aube du jour, et une dépêche de Sa Majesté l'Empereur Alexandre qui annonce à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan qu'il ne pourra s'empêcher de faire aussitôt entrer dans la ville une partie de ses forces. Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan a adressé une dépêche pressante à Sa Majesté la Reine pour demander l'ajournement de cette mesure et lui épargner un danger effroyable. A quoi servirait la présence d'une flotte si la capitale est occupée par une armée au moment où les rues mêmes sont encombrées de malheureux réfugiés affamés?

No. 513.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February* 13.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 12 *Février*, 1878.

JE viens de recevoir de notre Ambassadeur à Vienne le télégramme suivant :—

"La réponse de la Russie est arrivée. On n'en connaît pas précisément le contenu,

le Comte Andrassy observant encore une certaine réserve à cet égard. Cependant, le Baron Orczy m'a dit que la Russie déclinait Vienne pour la réunion de la Conférence, et qu'elle proposait une ville de second ordre, Dresde ou Bade."

Veuillez donner connaissance de cette dépêche à Lord Derby.

No. 514.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February* 13.)

Constantinople, le 12 *Février*, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

LA demande d'entrée de la flotte Britannique a donné lieu à un échange de télégrammes entre notre auguste Maître et Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie. Tout en protestant de son désir sincère de voir retablir la paix et les rélations amicales entre les deux pays, le Czar se croit obligé, en présence de la résolution prise par le Cabinet de St. James au moment même où ces résultats se poursuivent entre nos négociateurs, d'aviser à l'entrée d'une partie de ses troupes à Constantinople, c'est-à-dire de combler notre destruction complète. Quoique l'Empereur Alexandre ait eu soin d'attribuer à sa décision un caractère pacifique, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan n'a pas manqué, dans sa réponse, d'invoquer ses droits souverains, affirmés encore tout dernièrement par la retraite de la flotte Anglaise, pour s'élever contre des mesures qui répondent mal à la situation réelle de toutes les populations soumises à son sceptre, lesquelles, ayant droit à la même protection, vivent dans une parfaite sécurité, grâce au respect de la fermeture des Détroits. Ainsi, la demande du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique nous met, votre Excellence le voit, dans une fausse position vis-à-vis de la Russie. Les difficultés sérieuses qui en résulteraient sont trop évidentes pour que j'aie besoin d'y insister. Lord Derby ne manquera pas, je me plais encore à l'espérer, de les apprécier lorsque il aura pris connaissance de ce qui précède.

No. 515.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February* 13.)

Constantinople, le 12 *Février*, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

JE prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien transmettre immédiatement à Sa Majesté la Reine la dépêche suivante de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan :—

"Je m'adresse à votre Majesté dans une occurrence très dangereuse pour mon pays. Depuis l'armistice qui a été signé dans l'état d'isolement où se trouvait mon Gouvernement, l'apparition de la flotte Anglaise va attirer sur ma capitale, dont les portes sont ouvertes et les ressources épuisées, une force supérieure dont la présence sera pour moi un danger évident. Je ne doute pas de l'intention qui dirige la flotte; mais je dois insister pour obtenir du Gouvernement de votre Majesté le désistement de ce projet dangereux."

No. 516.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, February* 13.)

(Télégraphique.)

SULTAN télégraphie à l'Empereur, daté d'aujourd'hui, qu'il a pris résolution d'écrire à la Reine d'Angleterre pour insister sur abandon de l'entrée de partie d'escadre Anglaise dans Bosphore, mesure qui entraînerait selon lui malheurs incalculables pour l'humanité; il prie l'Empereur d'accorder délai nécessaire pour attendre réponse de la Reine.

Mercredi.—Empereur a répondu au Sultan :—

"Je suis toujours prêt à donner mes concours pour épargner des malheurs à l'humanité. J'attendrai le résultat de la démarche près de la Reine d'Angleterre."

No. 517.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received February* 13.)

Admiralty, February 13, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the letter of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, dated 8th instant, communicating the decision of Her Majesty the Queen, and of Her Majesty's Government, that a detachment of the fleet under the command of Vice-Admiral Hornby, shall proceed to Constantinople for the protection of British life and property; and I am directed in reply to request that you will inform the Earl of Derby that instructions were accordingly sent on the same day, by telegraph, for the Commander-in-chief to proceed to Constantinople with the ships named in the margin,* and further, that in accordance with subsequent instructions received from Her Majesty's Government, telegraphic orders were sent to Vice-Admiral Hornby on the 11th instant, to proceed through the Dardanelles to-day (13th instant), taking with him such force as he may think necessary. These orders were confirmed yesterday (12th instant), by telegraph.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 518.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received February* 13.)

(Secret.)

Admiralty, February 13, 1878.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Hornby, dated the 13th instant, No. 16.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 518.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Koumkaleh, February 13, 1878, 7·50 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

No. 19 received.†

I sail at daylight accordingly. "Hotspur" remains. "Raleigh" will join on her return from Dédéagatch, and "Research" from Salonica.

No. 519.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, February* 13.)

Athènes, le 12 *Février*, 1878, 9·30 P.M.

(Télégraphique.)

LE Commandant-en-chef des troupes rentrées télégraphie aujourd'hui à Sa Majesté le Roi que les bandes Grecques expédiées en Thessalie par le Gouvernement Ottoman ont commencé déjà à commettre des atrocités sur les populations Chrétiennes des provinces Ottomanes limitrophes. Vous savez que le Gouvernement Royal a ordonné la retraite des troupes, suivant le conseil donné par les Grandes Puissances, et comptent sur leurs assurances que les populations Chrétiennes des provinces limitrophes seraient à l'abri de la férocité des bandes irrégulières Ottomanes. Or, la Porte étant libre à expédier en Thessalie et en Epire des Circassiens et des Ghegues, les populations Chrétiennes de ces provinces restent à la merci de ces bandes, et leur situation déplorable crée de sérieuses et insurmontables difficultés au Gouvernement Royal. Les Chrétiens massacrés sont en grande parti parents et proches de nos officiers, et notre armée voit en eux des frères égorgés sans défense. Comment imposer à nos troupes de voir d'un œil indifférent ce spectacle, et rester

* "Alexandra," "Swiftsure," "Téméraire," "Achilles," "Ruby," and "Salamis."

† No. 19 Telegram directed the Admiral to proceed to Constantinople in execution of orders already sent.

impassibles vis-à-vis des bandes fanatiques d'égorgeurs de frères abandonnées à leur merci, et tendant en vain le bras pour secours ?

Vous êtes invité de faire part de ces considérations au Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, de lui représenter les circonstances qui pourraient engager le Gouvernement à ne pouvoir plus résister l'entraînement général qui pousse l'armée et la population au-delà des frontières, et lui exprimer qu'il ne sera point permis aux bandes Turques de continuer leur œuvre d'extermination.

No. 520.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 203.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 12, 1878, 12·30 A.M.

EMPEROR of Russia has telegraphed to the Sultan that he desires a durable and solid peace and maintenance of good relations between the two countries; but at the moment when negotiations for this object are being carried on British Government has decided, on the representation of its Ambassador at Constantinople, to avail itself of a former Firman to send part of its fleet into the Bosphorus to protect lives and property of British subjects, and other Powers have taken the same step. This resolution on their part has induced him to consider whether he should not send part of his troops into Constantinople to defend the lives and property of the Christians. If he should adopt this measure it would only be to maintain order, and it could not, therefore, be in opposition to the views ("contre les pensées") of His Majesty the Sultan. Emperor's despatch was dated at 1 P.M., Monday. Sultan will, I believe, reply to the effect that he is surprised at this communication; that all His Majesty's subjects are protected, and that he knows how to maintain the rights of the Empire, as is proved by the fact that the English fleet retired as soon as it was informed by his Government that its entry into the Dardanelles was a violation of the Treaties. He trusts, therefore, that the Emperor will not consider it necessary to have recourse to the measures referred to in his telegram.

No. 521.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 204.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 12, 1878, 4·20 P.M.

CAPTAIN TROTTER, who has visited positions now occupied by the Turkish troops in front of Constantinople—at Kuchuk Tchekmedjé—reports them as being strong. Mukhtar Pasha is in command of 50,000 men and 130 guns, and is beginning to entrench himself and to construct batteries. It is of the utmost importance that I should be informed of opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to what Porte should do in case Grand Duke Nicholas should direct a Russian force to occupy Constantinople—whether the Russians should be admitted as friends, or their advance should be resisted there, should there be means of doing so.

No. 522.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 205.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 12, 1878, 6·30 P.M.

WITH reference to suspicion of French Government that secret alliance exists between Turkey and Russia, I have reason to believe that no such alliance has been actually concluded, but that it was proposed by Grand Duke Nicholas to the Turkish Plenipotentiaries at Adrianople, and that efforts will be probably made to induce Turkey to agree to one.

No. 523.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 206.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 12, 1878.

AFTER much discussion I have persuaded Ministers to confine themselves to protesting against the passage of the Dardanelles by our fleet, and orders to that effect will be sent at once to Commandant of the forts. The Porte fears that Russians will now insist upon sending troops into Constantinople; and it believes that their presence within the city walls might lead to most serious disasters, as the Christians encouraged by it might turn upon the Mussulmans. If, therefore, the Russians are determined to do so, the Porte earnestly entreats Her Majesty's Government to assist it in prevailing upon them not to enter the city, but to remain outside the walls at some distance. Turkish Ministers have asked me to request Admiral to anchor at the Princes' Islands, so that the Russians may be told that the fleet is not actually in the Bosphorus. This I have no difficulty in doing, as he is free to anchor there according to his instructions. I send "Antelope" to meet him, and to request him to proceed thither.

Austrian Ambassador received instructions this evening to ask for Firman for entry of two ships of war.

No. 524.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, February* 12, 1878.

PRINCE REUSS telegraphs that population being quiet he does not think that presence of German ships is necessary.

German Government will not therefore apply for a Firman at present.

No. 525.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, February* 12, 1878.

SOME members of the Revolutionary Committee were arrested here last night. They resisted, and loss of life among soldiers ensued. Girls, their accomplices, had burnt all the compromising papers whilst building was being besieged.

No. 526.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, February* 13, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram, Minister for Foreign Affairs is telegraphing this evening to Greek Minister at Constantinople, to ask him if he has informed Porte that the Greek troops have been recalled, and if not, to do so.

He said that he would consult his colleagues as to measures to be taken with regard to armed bands, and is to let me know the result.

The French Minister accompanied me to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and supported me in urging the Greek Government to take steps as to irregular bands.

(Above sent to Constantinople.)

No. 527.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, February* 13, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 11th, and to my telegram of yesterday, Minister for Foreign Affairs has assured me to-day that Minister of the Interior,

Minister of Justice, and Minister of Marine, will exercise all legal means to prevent departure of irregular armed bands.

No. 528.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 210.) *Constantinople, February 13, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram No. 196, Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that, as far as he has yet learned, M. Onou has been sent here to induce Porte to withdraw troops from border provinces, King of Greece having been requested by Emperor of Russia to recall Greek forces, and to state that if the frontier war continues it may lead to fresh difficulties with Russia. M. Onou has been directed to inform Porte that it is not true that Austria is dissatisfied with conditions of peace, that she is acting cordially in all things with Russia, and that Turkey has nothing whatever to expect from her. I am informed from Adrianople that all Russian troops are being sent towards the Sea of Marmora and Constantinople. They amount, my informant states, to about 60,000 men.

No. 529.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 211.) *Constantinople, February 13, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

SULTAN has informed the Emperor of Russia that he has asked the Queen to countermand approach of fleet to Constantinople. Emperor's answer just received:—

"I am always ready to give assistance to spare humanity suffering ('malheurs à humanité'). I will await result of request made by your Majesty to the Queen of England."

Sultan is in great distress, and is convinced that if the Russians enter capital disasters will occur, and that he will lose his throne. He is constantly sending to request me to prevent fleet appearing here.

I should be glad to receive your Lordship's instructions with regard to my conduct should the Russians occupy Constantinople.

No. 530.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, February 13, 1878, 4 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE received following from Mr. Layard:—

"I learn secret report that a large number of Russian sailors have been sent down to Odessa and elsewhere from Cronstadt, and that they are to be used for manning the Turkish fleet, of which the Russians will take possession should the British fleet pass the Dardanelles. I have no means of verifying the truth of the rumour, but it might be well to make inquiries on the subject."

Please inquire and report on this subject.

No. 531.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, February 13, 1878, 5 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

HAVE you any information as to the movements of the fleet? Telegrams for the Admiral will be sent to you viâ Odessa. You should make arrangements for forwarding them to him as rapidly as possible.

No. 532.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 13, 1878, 5 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 204 of the 12th instant, Her Majesty's Government are not prepared, under existing circumstances, to incur the responsibility of advising an armed resistance to the entry of Russian troops into Constantinople, although it would be a violation of the armistice.

Under such circumstances the Porte would be entitled to protest, though armed resistance would presumably be fruitless and disastrous.

The only issue out of the present embarrassments would seem to be a Conference of the Powers.

No. 533.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 13, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February 13, 1878, 3·30 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs the contents of your telegram of 7·30 P.M. yesterday.

He tells me that instructions last given to the French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople empower him to apply for a Firman if, at any moment, French citizens should be really in danger; but the order to ships actually to go to Constantinople is not to be sent except from Paris.

In the meantime two of the French ships remain at Smyrna, and one at Salonica.

No. 534.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 13, 5·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February 13, 1878, 3·40 P.M.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs seems particularly anxious that it should appear that the French Government never contemplated sending ships of war to Constantinople unless French citizens should be actually in danger there.

No. 535.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 13, 1878, 5·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 150 of the 31st ultimo, although you cannot officially protect Polish refugees, as they are not British subjects, you are authorized to use your good offices in their behalf, and in case of need to assist such of them as may be in absolute distress to remove to any place of safety where they can find means of livelihood.

In view of presenting despatch to Parliament, are you confident of the accuracy of the report as to two Poles having been hanged at Sofia, and three others delivered to Russians at Adrianople?

No. 536.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 13, 5·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February 13, 1878, 3·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, 3·15 P.M., M. Depretis has read to me telegram from Italian Ambassador at Vienna, stating that Count Andrassy had informed him that he had instructed Count Zichy to apply for Firman for two Austrian ships to enter "in case of need," expressing hope Italian Government would do the same.

Austrian ships to await answer at Besika Bay. Count de Robilant having inquired what Austrian Government intended to do if Porte refused, Count Andrassy replied that the Turks would be exercising their right, and the ships would remain outside.

M. Depretis regrets that Russia should be furnished with a pretext (which she was only anxious for), by entry of British ships, for occupying Constantinople, which he thought it most desirable to avoid if possible.

His Excellency says that he cannot send Italian ships, unless their presence should be necessary to protect Italian life and property which, so far as he is informed at present, are not in danger.

No. 537.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 19. Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 13, 1878, 5 P.M.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW made no reserve or condition about Conference excepting as to place of meeting. Count Andrassy has stated his willingness to agree. Prince's wishes upon that point, expressing at the same time the hope that the Conference may be assembled as soon as possible.

No. 538.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 20.) (Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 13, 1878.

I AM told, upon what appears good authority, that a number of torpedoes have been embarked at Odessa for a destination unknown to my informant.

No. 539.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 21.) (Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 13, 1878.

INSTRUCTIONS have been sent to Count Zichy to ask for a Firman for passage for two Austrian ships of war to Constantinople, but no answer has yet been received from him. The instructions were absolute and not discretionary. Count Andrassy has informed the Russian Government of this, and accompanied the communication with a declaration that he could not admit that by sending ships of war to protect their subjects, the Government afforded any pretext for the entry of a Russian force into Constantinople. He denies that there is any connected similarity between the two measures.

No. 540.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 22. Confidential.) (Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 13, 1878.

COUNT ANDRASSY is preparing a telegram to Count Beust upon the measures which he thinks the two Governments should adopt in the present emergency, but was unwilling to mention them till he has quite made up his mind and put his instructions into form. I gathered, however, that Her Majesty's Government are likely to be asked whether they would be willing to assist Austria financially in mobilizing her army. The whole advantage of the position of Austria depends on her being able to mobilize without warning being given in any quarter, and this advantage would be lost if application had to be made to the Legislature for the means of carrying it out.

No. 541.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 13, 1878, 9·15 P.M.

RUSSIAN Ambassador communicated to-day a telegram from Prince Gortchakow stating that British Government having announced intention to send ships to Constantinople for protection of subjects, Russian Government, with precisely the same object, have in view temporary occupation of Constantinople, with distinction that they will, if occasion arises, protect all Christian population. The two Governments would accordingly fulfil a common duty of humanity. This pacific undertaking could not have a character of mutual hostility.

Express to Prince Gortchakow satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at declaration that Russian Government do not regard despatch of a detachment of British fleet to Constantinople as partaking of any hostile character, but that they cannot acknowledge that circumstances are in any way parallel, or that despatch of British ships for the purpose indicated justifies entry of Russian troops into Constantinople.

There is a marked difference between the two proceedings. In the one case the ships of war of a friendly Power are sent into the proximity of the city to afford protection which British subjects are entitled to require of their Government in case of need. In the other the troops of a hostile army are to be marched into the town in violation of the existing armistice, and at the risk of provoking disasters and causing the very danger to the Christian population which Russian Government deprecate.

Her Majesty's Government cannot admit that despatch of ships has any bearing on entry of Russian troops, a measure which is in their opinion uncalled for by any circumstances of military or other necessity, and the consequences of which may be most disastrous to the whole population of Constantinople.

No. 542.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 13, 1878, 9·45 P.M.

I HAVE expressed to Count Schouvaloff earnest hope that Russian Government will not make any movement of troops towards Gallipoli or of such nature as to threaten the communications of the English fleet. I said any such movement would be regarded in England as compromising the safety of the fleet, and in the actual state of public feeling I could not answer for the consequences, which might be most serious.

Your Excellency should use similar language.

No. 543.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 208.) *Foreign Office, February* 13, 1878.

Sir,

I SHOULD wish your Excellency to inform me whether you have any news of the movements of Her Majesty's fleet.

Telegrams addressed to the Admiral will be sent to your Excellency *vid* Odessa, and you should make the necessary arrangements for forwarding them to him with the least possible delay.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 544.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 211.) *Foreign Office, February* 13, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 150 of the 31st ultimo, forwarding a copy of a Petition which has been addressed to you by certain

Polish refugees resident at Constantinople, in which they request aid and protection from England; and I have to state to you, that although you cannot officially protect these persons, as they are not British subjects, you are authorized to use your good offices in their behalf, and, in case of need, to assist such of them as may be in absolute distress to remove to any place of safety where they can find means of livelihood.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 545.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 213.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 13, 1878.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's telegraphic despatch of the 12th instant, requesting to be informed of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to whether the Porte should resist a Russian occupation of Constantinople if there should be any means of doing so.

In reply, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are not prepared under existing circumstances to incur the responsibility of advising an armed resistance to the entry of Russian troops into Constantinople, although it would be a violation of the armistice.

Under such circumstances the Porte would be entitled to protest, though armed resistance would presumably be fruitless and disastrous.

The only issue out of the present embarrassment would seem to be a Conference of the Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 546.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 133.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 13, 1878.

I HAVE been informed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, that his Excellency has learnt a secret report that a large number of Russian sailors have been sent to Odessa and other ports from Cronstadt, and that they are to be employed in manning the Turkish fleet, of which the Russians intend to take possession if the British fleet should pass the Dardanelles.

Mr. Layard states that he has no means of ascertaining the truth of this rumour, but suggests that it might be advisable to make inquiries on the subject; and I should wish your Excellency to make inquiry accordingly and report the result to me.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 547.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 138.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 13, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 130 of the 11th instant, I have to inform your Excellency that the Russian Ambassador communicated to me to-day a telegraphic despatch from Prince Gortchakow to the following effect:—

"The British Government having announced that they were about to send a detachment of their fleet to Constantinople for the protection of the life and property of their subjects, whose safety might be endangered, according to the reports which reached them, the Russian Government, with precisely the same object, have in view the temporary entry into Constantinople of a part of their troops, with this distinction, that they will extend their protection, should the occasion arise, to all the Christian population. The two Governments would accordingly fulfil a common duty of humanity. This undertaking, pacific in its nature, could not therefore take any character of mutual hostility."

Her Majesty's Government desire your Excellency to express to Prince Gortchakow their satisfaction at this declaration that the Russian Government do not regard the dispatch of a detachment of the British fleet to Constantinple as partaking of any hostile character; but they cannot acknowledge that the circumstances are in any way parallel, or that the despatch of British vessels for the purpose indicated justifies the entry of Russian troops into Constantinople.

The difference between the two proceedings is so marked that it is scarcely necessary to comment on it. In the one case the ships of war of a friendly Power are sent into the proximity of the city in order that they may afford the protection which British subjects are entitled to require of their Government in case of need; in the other, the troops of a hostile army are to be marched into the town, in violation of the existing armistice, and at the risk of provoking disorders and causing the very danger to the Christian population which the Russian Government deprecate.

Her Majesty's Government cannot accordingly admit that the dispatch of Her Majesty's ships has any bearing on the entry of the Russian troops—a measure which, is, in their opinion, uncalled for by any circumstances of military or other necessity, and the consequences of which may be most disastrous to the whole population of the city.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 548.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 140.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 13, 1878.

IN the course of conversation with the Russian Ambassador this afternoon on the present situation of affairs, I took occasion to express an earnest hope, on the part of the Government, that the Russian Government will not make any movement of troops towards Gallipoli, or of such a nature as to threaten the communications of the English fleet. Any such movement, I said, would be regarded in England as compromising the safety of the fleet, and in the actual state of public feeling I could not answer for the consequences, which might be most serious.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 549.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 18. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 13, 1878

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon, and referred to a conversation I had had with him some days ago, in which, in answer to an inquiry from him, I had said that Her Majesty's Government understood and sympathized with the objections that the Greek inhabitants of Roumelia must feel to the inclusion of districts, wholly or principally inhabited by them, in the new State of Bulgaria which Russia was endeavouring to form.

M. Genadius said that his Government had received his report of my observations with much satisfaction, and that they should do their best, in a quiet and private way, to elicit from the populations concerned a proper expression of their feeling in regard to the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 550

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 121. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, February 13, 1878.

My Lord,

THE French Ambassador read to me to-day, for my private information, the substance of a telegram received by his Government from the French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, stating that the Porte had informed the Grand Duke Nicholas that they had objected to the entry of the English fleet into the Dardanelles.

M. de Mouy continued that the Grand Duke had congratulated the Porte, and had replied that if the Christian population of Constantinople had appeared to him to be in danger, he would himself have taken the proper measures to secure their protection. He had added that the entry of the British squadron through the Dardanelles being a flagrant violation of the existing arrangement as regards the Straits, and one capable of exercising a prejudicial influence ("pression fâcheuse") on the pending negotiations, he had referred to the Emperor for instructions in case foreign forces entered the Straits and obliged Russia to take corresponding measures.

I thanked M. d'Harcourt for this communication, which corresponds with the intelligence received by Her Majesty's Government of the language held by the Grand Duke.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 551.

Count Schouvaloff to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 13.)

Mercredi matin.

Mon cher Comte,

JE ne veux pas tarder à vous communiquer un télégramme qui répond à celui que j'ai adressé hier au Prince Gortchakow.

Votre, &c.
(Signé) SCHOUVALOFF.

Inclosure in No. 551.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{20 \text{ Janvier}}{1 \text{ Février}}$ 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

LE Gouvernement Britannique nous avait annoncé qu'il allait expédier une partie de sa flotte à Constantinople pour la protection de la vie et de la propriété de ses nationaux, dont la sécurité serait menacée, d'après les renseignements qui lui parviennent.

Nous avons en vue de faire entrer temporairement une partie de nos troupes à Constantinople, exactement pour le même but, avec la nuance que notre protection, s'il y avait lieu, s'étendrait à tous les Chrétiens. Les deux Gouvernements rempliraient donc un devoir commun d'humanité. Dès lors, cette œuvre, pacifique de sa nature, ne pourrait prendre un caractère quelconque d'hostilité mutuelle.

No. 552.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 15. Political.)
Scutari, January 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches addressed by me to Mr. Layard, concerning the movement in Mirdicia, and reporting the capture by the Montenegrins of the Lake Islands of Grmazur and Lesendra.

I also inform his Excellency of the departure for Monastir of Ali Saib Pasha, the Muchir of the third army corps.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 552.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Scutari, January 28, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the rising in the district of Mirdicia is general, and that the small Turkish garrisons there are closely besieged. The reinforcements which were sent off yesterday have been obliged, on reaching Miet, to suspend their march, and it is possible the garrisons will have to capitulate.

The authorities have, therefore, renewed their determination to launch against the Mirdites the Mussulman tribes of Dibra and Matia.

The Roman Catholic clergy and the Austro-Hungarian Consul-General might use their influence to induce the Mirdites to permit the garrisons to retire without molestation, but my colleague is unwilling to incur any responsibility in the absence of instructions.

Grmazur, an island on the Lake, was captured by the Montenegrins on the 26th instant, and the evacuation of its neighbour Lesendra has been ordered by Ali Saib Pasha, as it is no longer tenable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 552.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Scutari, January 30, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Turkish authorities inform me that the detachment sent to reinforce the garrisons in Mirdicia has this day driven back the insurgents.

Ali Saib Pasha took his departure this morning for Monastir, whither he has been ordered to proceed in all haste by the Porte, and Lieutenant-General Hussein Husni Pasha, who has been hitherto at Podgoritza, has assumed the supreme command here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 553.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 16. Political.)
Scutari, February 4, 1878.

My Lord,

ON the day after addressing to your Lordship my despatch Political, No. 13 of the 27th ultimo, I again called on Ali Saib Pasha, when he told me that matters in Mirdicia were progressing far too rapidly for him to be able to act with his intended mildness. He had now ascertained that the garrisons of Orosei and Casnietti were so closely besieged that they would probably have to surrender, and that the insurgent force which had met Ibrahim Bey and his troops near Miet had obliged that officer to stop his march. Ali Saib Pasha had consequently now repeated his orders for the Mussulmans of Dibra and Matia to fall upon Mirdicia.

In my anxiety to prevent the Mirdite insurrection from being at once developed into a religious conflict, I urged Ali Saib Pasha to leave no available means untried of pacifying the outbreak; and I suggested that either M. Lippich, the Austrian Consul-General, or the Roman Catholic clergy, who are both supposed to possess influence over the mountaineers, should be invited to inform the Mirdites that the authorities only wished at present to withdraw in safety the troops from Mirdicia.

The Pasha said that if M. Lippich would act in this sense he would be glad to profit by his action, but that he must not expect to be solicited to use his good offices.

I therefore called on my Austrian colleague and told him the concession I had obtained from Ali Saib; but, although M. Lippich appeared disposed to prevent the Mirdites from supporting by their movement the operations of the Montenegrins, he did not seem much inclined to go greatly out of his way to help in pacifying a revolted district of the Ottoman

Empire. M. Lippich, however, at length expressed himself ready to act in the manner I proposed, after soliciting instructions from his superiors, if the authorities would only address themselves direct to him.

This they would not do, for they had not even asked for my intervention.

I cannot help here remarking to your Lordship that the experience I have gained during the last two years, in the midst of insurrections and war, of the motives influencing the conduct of most of my colleagues leads me to congratulate myself that, at all events, as long as I endeavour to act the honourable part of a pacifier of internal troubles, or as an intercessor for the oppressed, I can count in advance upon your Lordship's support and approval; whilst, on the other hand, I am almost certain to lack the co-operation of my colleagues.

Here, in North Albania, at every turn one has to face the fact that Italian or Austrian interests clash with those of the legal possessor of the land, and these interests mean nothing more nor less than that a race is being run between the two countries in a determination to oust at some not very remote time the said legal owner.

The Turks have now, by a further reinforcement of troops sent to Ibrahim Bey, been able to cause the Mirdites to withdraw from around Casnietti and Orosci, but, nevertheless, the present Mirdite rising is more serious than that of last spring, as has already been proved by the fighting undergone by the troops which advanced to Casnietti.

The inclosed is a translation of a letter lately addressed to the Governor-General here by Prenk Bib Doda, and which has been communicated by the Mirdite chieftain to the Austrian and French Consuls.

Mustafa Pasha, the Governor-General, tells me that he will have nothing to do with Prenk Bib Doda, but that he is prepared to treat with the other chiefs. I have explained to his Excellency that it would be more prudent, at a moment when the condition of the Christians of Turkey will probably be brought before the Governments of Europe, to obtain the pacification of Mirdicia even at the price of some concessions to Prenk Bib Doda, who undoubtedly possesses great influence with his people; and, above all, to stop the advance of the Mussulman irregulars against the district.

I have the honour to inclose herein the copy of a telegraphic despatch addressed this day by me on the above matter to Mr. Layard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 553.

Prénk Bib Doda to the Commander of the Turkish Troops of Orosci, and to the Governor-General of Scutari.

(Translation.) *February* 1, 1878.

THE Mirdite people having been vexed by the murder at Scutari of some of their countrymen, some of the younger ones in their midst, less prudent, and irritated, also had recourse to reprehensible acts during these past few days, as your Excellency has learnt.

I came down expressly to try and prevent a conflict. Unfortunately I was unable to arrive in time, the fusilade having already commenced. Although there were people killed on their side as well as on yours, I obliged the Mirdites to discontinue firing, and to make a truce until I could come to an understanding with you.

Notwithstanding that it is in your power to burn all Mirdicia, still it would be a bad thing to do, for it would bring about a much greater effusion of blood.

In placing before you my belief, I at the same time put to you the following question:—

If you have come to Mirdicia to withdraw the troops at Casnietti and Orosci, without any harm coming to these troops, tell me so, because I will undertake to have them brought to you safe and sound, with all their baggage and whatever belongs to them.

But should your intentions be otherwise, I beg you to let me know it, because I want to be free from all responsibility for whatever may happen after to-day.

Inclosure 2 in No. 553.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, February 4*, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that a letter has been received by the Vali from Prenk Bib Doda declaring himself ready to assist in obtaining the peaceable withdrawal of the Turkish troops from Mirdicia.

I am of opinion that it would be well if the local authorities would once more order the Dibriotes to suspend their march against the Mirdites, notwithstanding that there may be good reasons for contesting Prenk Bib Doda's status.

No. 554.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 17. Political.)

Scutari, February 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copies of three despatches addressed by me to Mr. Layard, respecting the Montenegrin operations against Podgoritza and Spuz, and concerning the armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 554.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Scutari, February 1, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that yesterday the Montenegrins commenced serious operations against the line of communications between this and Podgoritza by attempting to occupy the village of Tuzi, but I have, as yet, been unable to ascertain how far the attempt has proved successful.

As it is reported that the Seraskier has again announced that an armistice is about to be concluded, I trust your Excellency will not refuse, when this occurs, to give me speedy notice of the fact.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 554.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Scutari, February 3, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the official notification received here of the conclusion of an armistice enjoins that, if it is not accepted by the Servians and Montenegrins, the Ottoman commanders must remain on the defensive.

Should hostilities be persevered in—and fighting took place to-day—the retention of Podgoritza and Spuz will become most difficult, and the culpable mistake of not having withdrawn from them will soon be evident.

The Turkish troops continue, it is reported, to drive the Mirdites before them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 554.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Scutari, February 4, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the military commanders at Podgoritza have received this morning a communication from the Montenegrin head-quarters to the effect that they accept and admit that an armistice has been concluded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 555.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 5. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, January 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that on Sunday the 27th instant, the Ferik Vely Pasha, commander of the troops in Bosnia, left this for Svornik. For some time past the authorities have been sending forward all available troops to the Sandjak of Svornik, including five battalions of infantry from the Herzegovina, and the departure of Vely Pasha would now seem to indicate an intention on the part of the Turks to assume the offensive on the line of the Drina. I do not think, however, that with the force at their disposal, and under such commanders as Vely and Ismet Pashas, an attack on Servia is likely to have any important results.

An unimportant skirmish between the advanced posts in the neighbourhood of Vishegrad is reported to have occurred on the 27th instant, in which the Turks pretend to have inflicted some loss on the Servians and to have taken five prisoners, without the smallest casualty on their side.

From the district of Novi-Bazar reports are very contradictory. Nova-Varos is said to have been occupied some time since by the Servians, but this has never been officially confirmed. It appears, however, certain that the Servians are constantly attacking the Turkish positions in the neighbourhood of the town of Novi-Bazar, although with what result is either not known or is concealed by the authorities here.

During the past week very heavy snow has fallen all over Bosnia, temporarily interrupting communications in many parts of the country, and rendering military operations extremely difficult.

I remark lately in some of the European newspapers statements that the insurrection in Bosnia is again on the increase. I can, however, confidently assure your Lordship that such is not the case. Even the strongest sympathisers with the movement, persons who are undoubtedly well informed, admit that it has no longer any political character, and has degenerated into a chronic form of brigandage. I believe, however, that a certain number of insurgents, and the so-called Provisional National Bosnian Government, still maintain themselves in the district of Tiskovac, and I am informed from Knin that the Turkish troops in that neighbourhood lately crossed the Dalmatian frontier in pursuit of them, and penetrating some distance into the country robbed and burnt a few Bosnian refugees' huts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 556.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 176.)

St. Petersburgh, February 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a note which I have received from Prince Gortchakow, in answer to that which I addressed to him on the 8th instant, in conformity with your Lordship's instructions on the subject of the advance of the Russian forces to Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 556.

Prince Gortchakow to Lord A. Loftus.

St. Pétersbourg, le 28 Janvier / 9 Février 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

EN réponse à la note de votre Excellence du 27 Janvier / 8 Février concernant l'occupation de quelques points stratégiques dans le voisinage de Constantinople par les troupes Russes à la suite de l'armistice, je me fais un devoir de l'informer que nous ne possédons pas encore de renseignements positifs quant aux détails de la Convention d'Armistice et à son application.

Je dois ajouter que la ligne de démarcation militaire tracée préalablement à l'armistice a été convenue entre les autorités Russes et Turques, et que c'est une question du ressort exclusif des belligérants.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) GORTCHAKOW.

No. 557.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 178.)

St. Petersburgh, February 9, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 164, of yesterday's date, regarding the ill-treatment of English doctors by the Russians, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of the reply which I have received from Prince Gortchakow refuting the possibility of the Emperor's humane orders being infringed, recalling previous calumnies of similar nature publicly refuted by impartial witnesses, requesting to be furnished with more precise information to be referred to military authorities, and expressing regret that charges, unsupported by proof, can form the subject of correspondence between the Governments.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 557.

Prince Gortchakow to Lord A. Loftus.

St. Pétersbourg, le 28 Janvier / 9 Février 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

PAR une note du 27 Janvier / 8 Février votre Excellence m'a transmis une information reçue de Constantinople par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique concernant des plaintes que des médecins Anglais arrivés dans cette ville auraient élevés contre les mauvais traitements dont ils auraient été l'objet de la part des Russes.

Je pourrais me référer aux ordres formels et réitérés parfaitement connus de votre Excellence et qui ont enjoint aux autorités militaires Russes, au nom de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, de traiter avec humanité non seulement les personnes qui se vouent au soulagement des souffrances de la guerre, mais même celles qui prennent part aux hostilités, du moment où elles sont tombées au pouvoir des troupes Impériales. Je devrais me refuser absolument à admettre que ces ordres aient pu être enfreints envers qui que ce soit, et rappeler à votre Excellence que des calomnies répandues à ce sujet ont déjà été publiquement refutées par des témoins impartiaux, au nombre desquels figuraient des sujets de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien nous fournir des indications plus précises que je puisse signaler à l'attention de nos autorités militaires, et je ne puis ne pas lui exprimer ma surprise et mon regret de voir que des allégations vagues, ne reposant non seulement sur aucune preuve mais encore sur aucune donnée ni de nous, ni de lieux, ni de dates, ni de faits puissent devenir l'objet d'une correspondance de Gouvernement à Gouvernement.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) GORTCHAKOW.

No. 558.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 9. Political.)
My Lord, *Odessa, February 9, 1878.*

HAVING noticed that the conditions of the armistice were apparently not known in London on Monday evening the 4th instant, I have the honour to inclose extract from the "Journal d'Odessa" of $\frac{\text{January 23}}{\text{February 4}}$, giving them as telegraphed by the Grand Duke Nicholas. They were known here on Saturday afternoon, the 2nd, at 4 o'clock.

I would have telegraphed then had I thought it possible they would not have been communicated to Her Majesty's Government; but knowing that Adrianople, whence the telegram was sent, was in direct communication with Bucharest and Northern and Western Europe, I thought it would have been waste of public money to have done so. It is now said here they were sent for private information of the General commanding this district, and were not intended to be published. It is certain they were not published at St. Petersburgh for some time after, if indeed they have yet been published there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

Inclosure in No. 558.

Extract from the "Journal d'Odessa" of $\frac{\text{January 23}}{\text{February 4}}$, 1878.

Andrinople, le 19 Janvier, 1878.

L'ARMISTICE avec la Turquie a été conclu et signé le 19 Janvier, et en conséquence les hostilités cesseront à la réception de cette dépêche.

D'après l'armistice la Turquie lève le blocus des ports de la Mer Noire, et la liberté du commerce sera déclarée par un avis ultérieur.

En outre, si les glaces le permettent, les Turcs évacuent Sulina, Roustchouk, Silistrie, et Widdin, et nous, de notre côté, rendons la navigation libre sur le Danube. Les côtes suivantes de la mer sont livrées aux troupes Russes :—

Depuis notre frontière jusqu'à Baltchik inclusivement, puis de Missevra à Derkioï inclusivement.

Les Russes occupent les ports de Bourgas et de Midia.

Dans la Mer de Marmara, de Bionk-Tchekmendji jusqu'à Tcharkioï inclusivement.

Dans l'Archipel de Ourcha jusqu'à Makri.

Le trafic des chemins de fer Turcs pour le commerce est libre. On peut tout diriger sur les ports, sauf les munitions de guerre.

Le Gouvernement Turc a donné les ordres pour l'ouverture des communications télégraphiques entre Constantinople et Odessa.

Le même ordre doit être donné de notre part.

(Signé) NICOLAS.

No. 559.

Sir C. Wyke to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *Copenhagen, February 11, 1878.*

THE greatest astonishment is expressed by the Danish press at a member of the House of Commons having gravely asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Friday last whether it was true that the Danish army had been mobilized for the purpose of invading Schleswig? and it is considered still more extraordinary that that Minister should have thought it worth while to answer the question in all gravity by telling the honourable Member that he had not received any information tending to prove that Denmark entertained such hostile intentions against its powerful neighbour.

The "Dagblad" of this morning takes advantage of this incident to make one of its usual violent attacks against England.

All this arises from the sensational nonsense often published in the English newspapers received from their correspondents in this city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES LENNOX WYKE.

No. 560.

M. Gennadius to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(Confidential.)
My Lord, *London, February 13, 1878.*

THE precarious state of public order at Constantinople, and the endangered security of its inhabitants, which has induced Her Majesty's Government to order a part of the British fleet to proceed to the Bosphorus, is as fully admitted at Athens as the humane step taken by Her Majesty's Government is appreciated.

Your Lordship is aware that by far the largest proportion of the population of Constantinople are Greeks, and of those the Hellenic subjects form a body more numerous, and represent interests more important, than those of the total number of all other foreign subjects in that city.

Under these circumstances it would appear just and expedient that one or two Greek ships of war should be present in those waters.

Before, however, taking a decision, the Hellenic Government desires to ascertain whether such a step would meet with the approval and moral support of Her Majesty's Government, whose lead they would but follow in ordering Greek ships on a mission initiated by Great Britain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

No. 561.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received February 14.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, February 14, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram received from Vice-Consul Maling, dated February 13, 4·25 P.M., in which he reports the passage of the British fleet through the Dardanelles.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 561.

Vice-Consul Maling to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Dardanelles, February 13, 1878, 4·25 P.M.*

ADMIRAL, with six armour-ships and despatch-vessel, have passed the Dardanelles at 3 P.M.

Turkish authorities protesting only; but they did not resist. Everything terminated peacefully.

No. 562.

Vice-Consul Maling to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Dardanelles, February 13, 1878, 4 P.M.*

FLEET has passed Dardanelles Straits under protest, but without resistance. Everything passed off quietly.

No. 563.

Vice-Consul Malling to the Secretary to the Admiralty.—(Communicated to the Foreign Office, February 14.)

Dardanelles, February 13, 1878, 4·25 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

ADMIRAL with six armoured ships and despatch vessel passed Dardanelles at 3 P.M., Turkish authorities protesting only; but they did not resist, and everything terminated peacefully.

No. 564.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.—(Communicated to the Foreign Office, February 14, 10·45 P.M.)

February 13, 1878, 7 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

SAILED from Besika Bay, 12 A.M.; very thick; north-east gale; snow-storm. At the narrows "Alexandra" got on the shore. Now at anchor under Negara. Shall not go beyond Gallipoli to-morrow unless it moderates. Passed forts under protest. Observed "Raleigh" on shore on Rabit Island. Sent "Hotspur" and "Ruby" to her assistance.

No. 566.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 207.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, February 13, 1878.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Mr. Green, dated Scutari, yesterday:—

"Turkish General has twice, by order of Porte, sent protests to the Prince of Montenegro against continued occupation of positions taken after 31st ultimo.

"Public feeling here has consequently become unsettled, as it is feared either Turks or Montenegrins are leading to a recommencement of hostilities."

No. 566.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 208. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, February 13, 1878, 2·15 P.M.

SULTAN has asked me to request Her Majesty's Government not to afford a pretext to Russia to enter Constantinople by sending the fleet through the Dardanelles. His Majesty says he is willing to place his fleet wherever Her Majesty's Government may think its presence desirable, and if Her Majesty's Government has not sufficient confidence in his officers, he will take English Admiral or English officers recommended by Her Majesty's Government to command his ships.

His Majesty declares that he cannot but apprehend great disasters if Russians occupy Constantinople, as they will inevitably insist upon doing, if the fleet enters. His Majesty begs me further to state that should he have any reason to believe that the Russians are about to violate the armistice, or to put his Empire in danger, he will himself ask for the presence of Her Majesty's fleet. I could not refuse to send His Majesty's message, but I have informed him that after the decision taken by Her Majesty's Government, I feared it was of little use doing so.

No. 567.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 209.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, February 13, 1878.

SULTAN has received a second telegram from Emperor of Russia, stating that he still maintains the same friendly and pacific disposition, but that it is difficult for him to

reconcile Sultan's demand not to send Russian troops into Constantinople with communication he has received from Her Majesty's Government, announcing that British fleet, notwithstanding refusal of Firmen, has been ordered to Bosphorus. If it were to enter it would be impossible for him not to send part of his troops into Constantinople temporarily.

Sultan, the Emperor says, has too high a feeling of personal dignity not to admit that he cannot act otherwise.

No. 568.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 212.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, February 13, 1878, 11·30 P.M.

VICE-CONSUL at Dardanelles telegraphs at 3 P.M. to-day:—

"Admiral with seven ships is passing up. Authorities protested; but they did not resist. Everything passed off well. Weather very bad."

No. 569.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.[a]

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.)

Foreign Office, February 14, 1878, 12·45 A.M.

IT is stated that sailors are being sent from Cronstadt to man the Turkish fleet, which, it is rumoured, may be handed over to the Russians, either as an indemnity or to transport their troops to Odessa. It is also stated that torpedoes are being embarked at Odessa. Can you procure any information on this subject?

No. 570.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 213.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, February 14, 1878.

MILITARY ATTACHÉ at Gallipoli telegraphed following yesterday evening:—

"Three British men-of-war arrived.

"Russians occupied Kavac, and are making combined movements on it in force by Keshan and Rodosto."

No. 571.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 214.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, February 14, 1878, 11·40 A.M.

PORTE refuses for present to grant permission to Austrian ships to pass through the Dardanelles, and the French and Italian Charges d'Affaires tell me that until they receive instructions to do so they will not ask for firman for their ships, on the ground that there is no danger to be apprehended to the French and Italian subjects. Weather still thick and snow falling.

Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me at 5 A.M. that one of Her Majesty's ships was aground after passing in through Dardanelles, and that Admiral was endeavouring to get her off, but I have heard nothing on the subject from the Admiral, who telegraphed to me at 1 A.M. that he had passed the Straits.

---

[a] A similar telegram was sent to Consul-General Stanley.

No. 572.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 215.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 14, 1878, 12·45 P.M.*

ERZEROUM is to be evacuated in six days; garrison will march with their arms and baggage; inventory will be exchanged of public property left behind; boundaries are to be afterwards agreed by Commanding Officers on all sides. Any person [?] to furnish conveyance to stores, provisions, of which there is great dearth on both roads. Unless extensive (?) preparations are made to provision garrison exceeding 20,000 men—want tents and winter field equipments—march in detachments—there must be much mortality.

Nothing has yet been done by Turks to make provision for troops.

No. 573.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 216.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 14, 1878.*

IN view of the present critical state of affairs, the Ottoman Parliament has been prorogued by the Sultan.

No. 574.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, February 14, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 11th, I can discover nothing to confirm report of a secret understanding between Russia and the Viceroy, nor can I quite understand its object. In frank conversation with me yesterday, Viceroy expressed same views he has always held of strong hostility to Russia as Turks' malignant enemy, and he entertained great suspicion and fear of the negotiation of a secret Treaty between Porte and Russia, against his strong advice to the Sultan. He suspects that such a Treaty is probable, and as General Ignatiew is aware of his views, that it may unfavourably affect Egypt. Notwithstanding our disagreement on financial questions, I observed no sign of the Viceroy severing from his old policy of friendly reliance on England. Very important at this moment to keep me *au fait* with progress of Eastern question.

No 575.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 14, 1878.*

AN article from to-day's "Golos" strongly urges the occupation of Gallipoli and Dardanelles as a precaution, in consequence of the hostile attitude of England.

No. 576.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 33. *Secret.*)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 14, 1878.*

CONSIDERABLE number of Russian sailors, with their officers, and quite lately 400, has been at various times sent to the Danube. There must be some 1,200 or 1,400 already there. I will make further inquiries and report.

No. 577.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, February 14, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of this day, no torpedoes have been shipped here, unless possibly in Russian man-of-war which went to Sebastopol recently. I have inquired of Vice-Consul there.

As to sailors, I will endeavour to ascertain truth of report.

No. 578.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 14, 1878, 3·45 P.M.*

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires has communicated telegram from his Government, dated 12th instant, stating that the commander of the returned troops telegraphs that bands of Gheghas sent to Thessaly by Ottoman Government are committing atrocities on Christian populations. The Greek Government having ordered the return of troops on the advice of the Great Powers, and relying on their assurances that the Christian populations of the frontier provinces would be protected from the ferocity of the Turkish irregulars, these deplorable occurrences raise serious difficulties for the Greek Government. The Christians massacred are many of them related to Greek officers, and the army cannot be forced to remain passive while their brethren are abandoned to fanatical assassins.

Chargé d'Affaires was to represent to Her Majesty's Government the circumstances which might deprive Greek Government of power of resisting any longer the feeling which is driving the army and the people across the frontiers, and to urge that the Turkish bands should no longer be permitted to continue their work of extermination.

No. 579.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February 14, 1878, 5·45 P.M.*

I HAVE read to M. Depretis your Lordship's telegram of yesterday to Lord A. Loftus, and his Excellency fully admits the force of the distinction between the entry of friendly fleets sent into the proximity of the city to afford protection to subjects and occupation of Constantinople itself by hostile army; but at first he was not inclined to apply for Firman for Italian ships. I informed him, according to Sir H. Elliot's telegram of yesterday, that Austrian Government had applied, which he had already heard from Austrian Ambassador here, and used other arguments. Before my leaving he promised he would consult his colleagues and communicate with Austrian and French Governments.

No. 580.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.†

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 14, 1878, 7 P.M.*

GREEK Chargé d'Affaires has asked me whether his Government would receive approval and moral support of Her Majesty's Government in sending Greek ships-of-war to Constantinople. I told him that we readily acknowledged the friendly action of his Government in making this inquiry, but having given it fullest consideration, could not advise them at the present moment to take this step, which would only add to complications of existing situation, and might provoke outbreak of feeling that would lead to serious results.

---

* A similar telegram was sent to Mr. Layard.
† Similar telegrams were sent to Mr. Layard, Lord Lyons, and Sir H. Elliot.

No. 581.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1878.
(Secret.)

YOUR telegram No. 208 of the 13th, respecting the Sultan's message, was not received until this afternoon. Explain this to His Majesty, and state that Her Majesty's Government highly appreciate its friendly nature.

You may tell the Sultan of the instructions telegraphed to Lord A. Loftus yesterday, protesting against the assertion that the dispatch of Her Majesty's ships to Constantinople affords a reason for the entry of Russian troops, and add that Her Majesty's Government understand that the Austrian Government have made a similar representation.

You may also say that Her Majesty's Government will use their utmost endeavours in the Conference to obtain the best terms that circumstances will admit for His Majesty's Empire.

No. 582.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1878, 8·10 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram No. 211 of the 13th instant, Her Majesty's Government have to instruct you, should the Russians occupy Constantinople, to remain and conduct the business of the Embassy as usual, carefully avoiding any occasion of coming into diplomatic discussions with the Russians so far as you can do so.

In the event of the Sultan leaving the city and the Porte ceasing to administer the Government there, you should consult with your colleagues and telegraph for instructions.

No. 583.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.[a]

(No. 149. Secret.) *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1878.
My Lord,

IT is stated that sailors are being sent from Cronstadt to man the Turkish fleet, which it is rumoured may be handed over to the Russians either as an indemnity or to transport their troops to Odessa. It is further stated that torpedoes are being embarked at Odessa.

I have to instruct you to procure any information you can on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 584.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 215.) *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1878.
Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 177 of the 8th instant, informing me that, with a view to prevent the Porte from having recourse to hostile measures against Greece, you had communicated to the Turkish Prime Minister the information contained in a telegram from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens to the effect that the Greek troops had received orders to withdraw from Turkish territory; and I have to express to your Excellency my approval of your proceedings in this respect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

---

[a] An identic despatch was addressed to Consul-General Stanley.

No. 585.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 220. Secret.) *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1878.
Sir,

YOUR Excellency's telegram No. 208 of the 13th instant, respecting the Sultan's message was not received until this afternoon, and I have therefore to instruct you to explain this to His Majesty, and state that Her Majesty's Government fully appreciate its friendly nature.

Your Excellency may inform the Sultan of the instructions which I sent to Lord Augustus Loftus yesterday by telegraph, protesting against the assertion that the dispatch of Her Majesty's vessels of war to Constantinople affords a reason for the entry of Russian troops into that city, and you should add that Her Majesty's Government understand that the Austrian Government have made a similar representation.

Your Excellency may further say that Her Majesty's Government will use their utmost endeavours at the Conference to obtain the best terms that circumstances will admit for His Majesty's Empire.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 586.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 233.) *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1878.
Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram No. 211 of the 13th instant, Her Majesty's Government have to instruct you, in the event of the Russian troops occupying Constantinople, to remain in that city and conduct the business of Her Majesty's Embassy as usual, avoiding carefully any occasion of coming into diplomatic discussion with the Russians as far as it lies in your power.

In the event of the Sultan leaving Constantinople and of the Government there ceasing to be administered by the Porte, your Excellency should consult with your colleagues and telegraph to Her Majesty's Government for instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 587.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 19. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1878.
Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a note which I have received from the Greek Chargé d'Affaires, inclosing a copy of a telegraphic despatch which he has received from his Government, in which are set forth the considerations which have caused them to resolve on a provisional occupation by their army of the Greek provinces of Turkey.[a]

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 588.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.[†]

(No. 22.) *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1878.
Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a telegram which the Greek Chargé d'Affaires has received from his Government, dated the 12th instant,[‡] and of which he communicated a copy to me, relative to the atrocities which are reported by the commander of the returned Greek troops as being committed in Thessaly by bands of armed Ghegus sent by the Ottoman Government, and representing the serious difficulties thereby created

[a] No. 145*. [†] An identic despatch was addressed to Mr. Layard. [‡] No. 619.

for the Greek Government, who had ordered the return of their troops on the advice of the Great Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 589.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 23.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1878.

I TRANSMIT, for your information, a copy of a telegram from the Greek Government, which has been communicated to me by M. Gennadius,* commenting on the observations which I made to him on the 6th instant, of which you were informed in my despatch No. 12 of that day, and suggesting that the Great Powers should urge the Porte to abstain from any attack on the insurgents in the frontier provinces until a decision of the European Congress should intervene.

I was unable to make any definite reply to this proposal; but I informed M. Gennadius of the measures taken by Her Majesty's Government to prevent any attack upon Greece by Turkey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 590.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham†

(No. 25.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a note which I have received from the Greek Chargé d'Affaires,‡ inquiring whether, if one or two Greek ships of war should be sent up to Constantinople, such a step would meet with the approval and moral support of Her Majesty's Government.

I also inclose a copy of the reply which I have made to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires' note, intimating that after having given the matter the fullest consideration, Her Majesty's Government are unable to advise the Greek Government at the present moment to take this step.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 591.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sandwith.

(No. 4. Political.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1878.

I APPROVE your proceedings, as reported in your despatch No. 9, Political, of the 27th ultimo, with a view to facilitate a meeting between the Committee of the Christian Delegates and the Turkish Commissioners in the Island of Crete.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 592.

Vice-Consul Malling to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Dardanelles, February* 14, 1878, 9·30 P.M.

HALF of ships anchored in the Straits during night, the rest proceeding to Gallipoli. This morning Admiral and four ships sailed for Constantinople. Two ships remain under

* No. 420. † Identic despatches were addressed to Mr. Layard, Lord Lyons, and Sir H. Elliot.
‡ No. 560.

Rear-Admiral at Gallipoli. Despatch-boat this evening follows Admiral. Cause of delay yesterday, stress of weather.

No. 593.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 151.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 31, 1878.

HER Majesty's Consul-General informs me that, according to the registers of the British Consulate, there were last year 1,482 registered British subjects in Constantinople and 629 Maltese, but that many Maltese, being very poor, do not register. He believes that there cannot be less than 3,000 persons in all under British protection in this city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 594.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 152.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 31, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram received by the Grand Vizier from the Turkish Plenipotentiaries with reference to the signature of the bases of peace proposed by Russia.

In consequence of the interruption of the Government telegraphic lines between Constantinople and Adrianople, this telegram was sent through the railway officials, one of whom appears to have betrayed his trust, and to have given a copy to more than one person. I received one this morning, and at once telegraphed its substance to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD

Inclosure in No. 594.

Server and Namyk Pashas to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.) *Andrinople, le 30 Janvier*, 1878.

VOTRE dépêche chiffrée du 24, No. 12, présente la lacune suivante. A partir du mot Sillistria la dépêche continue ainsi: "La faculté d'occuper," &c. D'après le texte de la pièce Russe il devrait y avoir à intercaller les mots suivants: "en Europe et celle d'Erzeroum, en Asie. A part cela les troupes Russes auront," &c.

Nous prions votre Altesse de nous télégraphier immédiatement, si le texte de votre dépêche doit être rétabli, comme il est dit plus haut. Nous avons communiqué à son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc nos instructions et nous préparons le Protocole des préliminaires et la Convention d'Armistice confiée à une commission d'officiers. Sa Majesté Impériale l'Empereur de Russie a fait savoir à son Altesse le Grand Duc que les négociations des préliminaires de la paix n'auraient lieu à Odessa mais à Andrinople, qu'un fonctionnaire Russe se rendrait ici à cet effet. La Sublime Porte doit donc songer dès aujourd'hui à la désignation des personnes qui seront chargées de représenter le Gouvernement Ottoman dans les négociations de ces préliminaires de paix. Pour faciliter nos communications télégraphiques ultérieures, nous prions votre Altesse de faire rétablir sans aucun retard le service télégraphique jusqu'à nos avant-postes. Comme nous devons signer le Protocole demain à 5 heures du soir, nous prions votre Altesse de nous répondre immédiatement.

L'officier qui porte la présente dépêche à la première station télégraphique libre à nos avant-postes attendra à la même station la réponse de votre Altesse.

No. 595.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 153.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 31, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 152 of to-day, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the answer which has been given by the Grand Vizier to the telegram of the Turkish Plenipotentiaries relating to the signature of the bases of peace, informing them that measures are about to be taken for the suspension of hostilities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 595.

The Grand Vizier to Server and Namyk Pashas.

COMME d'après votre télégramme No. 10, le Protocole doit être signé aujourd'hui, nous allons écrire à tous nos commandants de procéder aux formalités nécessaires pour la suspension des hostilités, tant avec les armées Russes qu'avec les troupes de Roumanie, de Serbie, et du Monténégro.

Veuillez prier Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc de vouloir bien transmettre à son côté des ordres en conséquence, tant en Europe qu'en Asie, ainsi qu'à la Roumanie, la Serbie et au Monténégro, afin d'éviter une effusion de sang inutile.

Nous avons pris les dispositions nécessaires pour faire rétablir immédiatement le service télégraphique jusqu'à nos avant-postes, et, s'il est possible, jusqu'à Andrinople, avec un parlementaire militaire.

No. 596.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 154. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 31, 1878.*

I HAVE learnt from a source which I have generally found to be trustworthy, that one of the demands of Russia has been that the final peace should be signed at Constantinople.

I have also been informed from the same source that the Shiekh ul Islam has been induced to give a Fetva or Decree, declaring that it is contrary to the faith of Islam to offer resistance against a victorious enemy when there is no hope that it will be successful. He quotes passages from the Koran to prove that it is a crime to do so, and that the vanquished should endeavour to receive the conquerors as friends. This Fetva was obtained in order to justify the Government in abandoning the defence of Constantinople, should the Russians advance upon the city, and it was decided on one occasion in the Council of War, that in this event no opposition should be offered.

This information has been confirmed to me through a member of the Council.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 597.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 155. Secret.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 1, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a telegram from the Emperor of Russia, in answer to one received by His Imperial Majesty from the Sultan. Its terms are considered unnecessarily hard and unfriendly, and the declaration "qu'il me faut, je dirai même il nous faut, une paix durable et solide," as indicating the intention of Russia to deal in the severest possible manner with Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 597.

The Emperor Alexander to His Majesty the Sultan.

St. Pétersbourg, le 30 Janvier, 1878.

JE n'ai pas jusqu'à présent la nouvelle que les Plénipotentiaires de votre Majesté aient reçu au quartier-général votre acceptation des bases proposées pour la conclusion de l'armistice. Quand ils l'auront produite, mon frère est autorisé à accorder l'armistice. Votre Majesté peut être persuadée que je partage sincèrement son désir de la paix, mais il me faut, je dirai même il nous faut, une paix durable et solide.

(Signé) ALEXANDRE.

No. 598.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 156.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 1, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the answer of the Turkish Chamber of Deputies to the Speech of the Sultan on opening the Parliament. It has only been published to-day. The censure upon the Ministers which was contained in the original draft was modified, as I have informed your Lordship. In the address as voted it stands: "Si les mesures militaires, et les efforts de notre diplomatie, avaient été à la hauteur des efforts bienveillants de votre Majesté, et des sacrifices que le peuple n'a cessé de s'imposer, notre situation aurait été bien meilleure."

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 598.

Extract from "La Turquie."

Adresse de la Chambre des Députés en réponse au Discours du Trône.

(Traduction.)

QUE le Très-Haut daigne accorder à notre auguste Souverain de longs jours de vie et de prospérité.

La Chambre a écouté avec recueillement et attention le discours que Sa Majesté Impériale a daigné prononcer à l'ouverture solennelle du Parlement le Jeudi 7 Zilhidjé et le 1er du mois de Décembre dernier, dont la réunion a eu lieu conformément aux prescriptions de la Charte constitutionnelle.

Si d'être admis auprès de votre Majesté a été un grand honneur pour les représentants de la nation, tous les Ottomans ont été non moins touché des sentiments de satisfaction et d'intérêt que le Souverain a bien voulu exprimer à cette occasion à leurs mandataires.

Il était du devoir de tous de défendre les droits légitimes de l'Empire contre l'agression de la Russie, comme l'aurait fait toute autre nation, tout autre Gouvernement; cependant une partie des populations qui vivaient paisibles et heureuses sous l'égide tutélaire de votre Majesté, méconnaissant leur autorité légitime et les priviléges, grâce auxquels elles avaient conservé leurs langues et leurs croyances, comme par exemple les Roumains qui, jouissant de larges immunités et d'une grande prospérité, auraient dû être toujours reconnaissants au Gouvernement Impérial; une partie de ces populations, disons nous, a augmenté par ses soulèvements les difficultés que nous avons aujourd'hui à surmonter.

Les cruels traitements que les Russes et leurs auxiliaires les rebelles ont fait éprouver aux populations paisibles et inoffensives de l'Empire, contrairement au droit de gens et à toutes les lois de la guerre et de l'humanité, ont excité d'indignation du monde civilisé.

En présence de cet état de choses, tous les Ottomans s'empressent autour de votre Majesté pour concourir avec elle à la défense des droits, de l'honneur, de l'intégrité et de l'indépendance du pays.

Votre Majesté ayant exprimé combien elle était heureuse de cet empressement et combien elle appréciait le dévouement de ses fidèles sujets depuis l'ouverture des hostilités, ceux-ci ont été encore plus encouragés à mener jusqu'au bout leur noble mission.

D'autre part, la valeur des troupes Ottomanes a provoqué l'admiration du monde entier, en même temps qu'elles s'estimaient heureuses d'avoir obtenu la satisfaction d'un Souverain tel que votre Majesté.

Si les mesures militaires, et les efforts de notre diplomatie, avaient été à la hauteur des efforts bienveillants de votre Majesté, et des sacrifices que le peuple n'a cessé de s'imposer, notre situation aurait été bien meilleure. Les Ottomanes ont toutefois la ferme conviction que cet état de choses regrettable trouvera sa fin sous peu, grâce à l'initiative magnanime de notre auguste Souverain.

Tous les sujets de Sa Majesté ont accueilli avec une vive satisfaction l'Iradé Impérial relatif à la création de la Garde Civique; aussi sera-ce avec un non moins vif empressement et intérêt que nous délibérerons sur le projet de loi relatif à l'incorporation des Chrétiens dans l'armée.

Il est à déplorer que, par suite de la guerre, les prescriptions de la Charte constitutionnelle n'aient pu être mises à exécution, prescriptions qui avaient pour but le bien-être moral et matérial des populations de l'Empire, l'accomplissement des engagements par la réorganisation des finances, la juste répartition et la perception des impôts, la réorganisation judiciaire, la facilité d'acquérir la propriété par la réforme des vakoufs, la réforme administrative, le choix des fonctionnaires et la définition de leurs attributions, enfin la réorganisation de la police.

Le fait que Sa Majesté a porté son attention avec une constante sollicitude sur les réformes possibles à introduire dans ces temps de troubles est une preuve éclatante de ses intentions formelles de persévérer dans cette voie.

Il est à espérer que par les soins paternels de notre auguste Souverain et le concours de la nation, la Providence fera cesser les maux que la guerre actuelle a amenés avec elle, et que la Chambre pourra se consacrer à la discussion des projets de lois qui doivent lui être soumis et sur lesquels repose la prospérité future de la nation, ainsi qu'à la solution des différentes questions restées pendantes lors de la première session.

Tous les Ottomans se félicitent de posséder un Souverain aussi magnanime, et qu'ils considèrent comme un don précieux de la Providence. Ces sentiments sont entr'autres justifiés par la liberté accordée à la Chambre d'exprimer ses idées et ses opinions sur toutes les questions civiles et politiques. La Chambre apprécie hautement cette faveur et en a spécialement tenu compte; aussi en profitera-t-elle dans ses délibérations sur les affaires publiques, conformément à l'intérêt du pays.

La Chambre se félicite aussi de ce que les rapports entretenus avec les Puissances sont de plus satisfaisants.

A cette occasion, les députés de la nation s'empressent d'offrir à votre Majesté, avec leurs remercîments, l'hommage de leur profond respect.

No. 599.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 157.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 1, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a textual copy in French of the bases of peace submitted to the Turkish Plenipotentiaries at Kyzanlik by the Grand Duke Nicholas, and accepted by the Turkish Government.

This document, which has not been communicated to any of my colleagues, has been given to me very secretly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 599.

Bases of Peace.

LA Bulgarie, dans des limites déterminées par la majorité de la population Bulgare, et qui en aucun cas ne saurait être moindre que celles indiquées par la Conférence de Constantinople, serait érigée en Principauté autonome tributaire, avec un Gouvernement national et Chrétien, et une milice indigène. L'armée Ottomane n'y séjournerait plus.

2. L'indépendance du Monténégro serait reconnue. Un accroissement de territoire, équivalent à celui que le sort des armes a fait tomber entre ses mains, lui serait assuré. La frontière définitive sera fixée ultérieurement.

3. L'indépendance de la Roumanie et de la Serbie serait reconnue. Un dédommagement territorial suffisant serait assuré à la première et une rectification de frontière à la seconde.

4. La Bosnie et l'Herzégovine seraient dotées d'une administration autonome avec des garanties suffisantes. Des réformes analogues seraient introduites dans les autres provinces Chrétiennes de la Turquie d'Europe.

5. La Sublime Porte s'engagerait à dédommager la Russie des frais de la guerre et des pertes qu'elle a du s'imposer. Le mode, si ce n'est pécuniaire, soit administratif ou autre, de cette indemnité, serait réglé ultérieurement.

6. Le Sultan s'entendra avec Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie pour sauvegarder les droits et les intérêts de la Russie dans les Détroits du Bosphore et des Dardanelles.

En témoignage de l'acceptation de ces bases essentielles les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans se rendront immédiatement à Odessa ou Sébastopol pour y négocier directement avec les Plénipotentiaires Russes des préliminaires de paix. Aussitôt que l'acceptation de ces conditions préalables serait officiellement notifiée aux Commandants-en-chef des armées Impériales des Conventions d'Armistice devront être négociées sur les deux théâtres de la guerre et les hostilités pourraient être provisoirement suspendues.

Comme garantie matérielle de l'acceptation par la Sublime Porte de nos conditions d'armistice et de son entrée dans la voie de négociations de paix, l'ordre sera donné aux troupes Ottomanes d'évacuer, aussitôt que l'armistice sera signé, les forteresses de Widdin, Roustchouk, et Silistrie en Europe, et celle d'Erzeroum en Asie. A part cela les troupes Russes auront la faculté d'occuper militairement, pendant la durée des pourparlers, certains points stratégiques qui seront spécifiés lors de la conclusion de l'armistice sur les deux théâtres de la guerre.

No. 600.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 158.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 1, 1878.

AT a secret session of the Turkish Chamber of Deputies held yesterday it was decided to name a Commission of ten of its members to proceed at once to the Palace to ask for an audience of the Sultan, with the object of petitioning His Majesty to dismiss his Ministers, and to replace them by men in whom the country would have more confidence.

This was soon known to the Ministers, and before the Commission could be chosen a message was sent to the Chamber by them to the effect that as the bases of peace and the armistice had been signed, such a step as that contemplated might lead to a renewal of hostilities and to serious danger to the public safety.

On receiving this message the majority of the deputies were in favour of suspending, for the present, the appeal they had intended to make to the Sultan. But the feeling against the Ministers is very strong, and the conviction that some of them at least have betrayed the country is gaining ground. It is by no means improbable, therefore, that the Turkish Parliament, or an influential minority in it, will before long take a very decided attitude against the Government, especially when it comes to learn the conditions of peace imposed upon Turkey by Russia, which have hitherto been carefully concealed from it.

The spirit of independence, and the determination to exercise a control over the administration of public affairs, shown by the Chamber of Deputies, is causing considerable anxiety to the Government, and I should not be surprised if an attempt were made by those who are known to be acting in the interest of Russia to induce the Sultan to dissolve or prorogue it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 601.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 159.)
Constantinople, February 2, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE informed your Lordship, in several despatches, of the strong feeling of anger and indignation against England which prevails at this moment amongst the Turks. They accuse her of having deserted Turkey in her difficulties, and of having abandoned her to Russia, notwithstanding the friendship and alliance which have existed for a long period of time between the two nations. I learn from persons who are intimately acquainted with what is passing among the Mohammedan population of Constantinople, that many leading Mussulmans, members of the Government, and men of influence at the Porte, advocate a defensive and offensive alliance with Russia, and close and intimate relations with her for the future. They argue that as England and the other European Powers have declined to interfere, in spite of Treaties, to protect Turkey from her secular enemy at a time when the very existence of the Empire is at stake, there is nothing more to hope for from them. Such being the case, and as the peace about to be concluded with Russia virtually puts an end to the Turkish rule in Europe, Turkey ought henceforth, they maintain, to act entirely and exclusively as an Asiatic and Mohammedan Power; to throw off, as far as possible, all connection with Europe, and only to consider the interests and welfare of her Mussulman populations without troubling herself about her Christian subjects, who will now be in a small minority. This, they believe, can be done, as the Christians in Turkey in Europe will be practically independent, whilst those who inhabit the Turkish Asiatic Provinces, not being of the Greek Church or Slavs, have no powerful State to protect them and to interfere in their behalf.

The Mohammedans of Turkey in Asia, who will be greatly increased in numbers by the emigration which is now taking place from the European Provinces, in consequence of the Russian invasion, and which will continue when the Mussulmans are subjected to Christian oppression, will afford, these persons say, excellent and abundant materials for a powerful army. Turkey will be much stronger when she is rid of Christian populations, which have always been ready instruments of foreign intrigue, and a source of constant embarrassment and danger to her. United cordially with Russia, and assured of her support, Turkey would have nothing to fear from any European Power, and might become a really independent nation, which, trammelled by Treaties with them, she has not hitherto been. Russia, at the same time, they believe, might be induced to help the Sultan in maintaining and extending his authority and influence as the Spiritual Head of the Mohammedan world. Turkey, in return, could assist Russia in establishing and consolidating her dominion over the Mohammedan States of Central Asia. Thus the two Empires might be mutually useful, and they could work together for a common end—which would be to expel the English from India; Russia, for objects of ambition; Turkey, to revenge herself for the ill-treatment she has received from a faithless ally.

These notions, wild as they are, may not be altogether unworthy of the notice of Her Majesty's Government. That they are entertained by persons who have considerable influence in the Palace I have reason to believe. Endeavours are being made, which may probably prove successful, to persuade the Sultan that his best policy, and the only chance he has of preserving the remains of his Empire, consists in placing himself entirely in the hands of Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 602.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 160. Secret.)
Constantinople, February 3, 1878.

My Lord,

HOBART and Baker Pashas were summoned to the Palace this morning to be consulted with reference to the measures to be taken against Greece in consequence of the invasion of Turkish territory by the Greek regular forces. It was decided that Hobart Pasha should be sent to the Piræus with four iron-clads, upon which seven or (if possible) ten battalions should be embarked. But this is only the present intention of the Porte,

which may be modified by subsequent events. There is, however, great exasperation against Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 603.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 161.)
Constantinople, February 3, 1878.

My Lord,

MY opinion was asked this morning by the Porte, through Mr. Saudison, as to the course that the Turkish Government should pursue with regard to the Turkish Minister at Athens and the Greek Minister here; whether Photiades Bey should be recalled, and M. Condouriotis receive his passports, or whether it would be better to pretend to accept the declaration of the Hellenic Government that the invasion of Thessaly was not intended as an act of war. The matter did not appear to me to be one upon which I could properly express an opinion. I consequently declined to give one.

Should, however, your Lordship wish me to take any steps which might prevent actual war between Turkey and Greece there might still be time to do so. I am informed that the Porte contemplates sending a Circular to its Representatives abroad, to be communicated to the Governments to which they are respectively accredited, showing the fallacy of the grounds assigned by the Greek Government for invading Turkey, and pointing out that arrangements for improving the condition of the Greek inhabitants of Thessaly and Epirus, for which it is alleged Hellenic troops are to cross the frontiers and to occupy Turkish territory, have already been provided for in the bases of peace proposed by Russia and accepted by Turkey.

I have &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 604.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 162.)
Constantinople, February 3, 1878.

My Lord,

I DIRECTED Mr. Saudison this morning to inquire of the Porte whether any term had been fixed for the duration of the armistice concluded between the Grand Duke Nicholas and the Turkish Plenipotentiaries. Safvet Pasha replied that, as far as the Turkish Government were aware, no term had been mentioned.

It would appear that Russia demands that the Porte should send a Plenipotentiary at once to agree to the preliminaries of peace. It will consequently be compelled, it may be presumed, to accept any conditions that the Russians may think fit to propose, under the threat of immediate resumption of hostilities should the negotiations be broken off. The Russians are now in a position to move upon Constantinople from three points in force, and the Porte would probably not venture to run the danger of an attack upon the capital.

After the many proofs of duplicity recently given by Russia, I venture to think that it behoves Her Majesty's Government to be on their guard.

Safvet Pasha informs me that no mention was made by the Grand Duke Nicholas of Servia or Montenegro being included in the armistice. He merely stated that directions should be sent to the Russian Commanders to suspend military operations. The Porte has instructed the Turkish Plenipotentiaries to clear up this point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 605.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 163.)

Constantinople, February 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, in original, as there has been no time to copy it at the Embassy, an interesting Report from Mr. Rassam with respect to his visit to the Pashaliks of Wan and Mosul, and to the mountains of Kurdistan.

He gives, as your Lordship will find, a lamentable account of the state of the country through which he passed, owing to the absence of troops and police in consequence of the war, and of the utter helplessness of the local authorities to maintain order and to protect the peaceable inhabitants from the depredations of the lawless Turkish and Persian Kurds. At the present moment it is useless to call the attention of the Porte to the condition of things which Mr. Rassam describes. Even if the Turkish Government were now willing to listen to any representations coming from England, they are powerless to take the necessary measures to restore security and tranquillity in districts which, even during peace, are almost independent of control.

I am glad to find from Mr. Rassam that the state of the Nestorian Christians, in whom a part of the English public take so much interest, is not so bad as it had been described to me to be, and that the reports that the Kurds had carried off Armenian women and children proves to be unfounded, or very much exaggerated.

Mr. Rassam is right in supposing that the small number of Chaldeans, who have forsaken their ancient national church and have submitted to that of Rome, are supported by the French Embassy in oppressing and persecuting their fellow-Christians in order to compel them to follow their example. I have spoken on many occasions to the Grand Vizier and Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on this subject; but, although they admit that the Chaldeans are treated with great injustice, and in opposition to the laws and to the principles of perfect religious toleration professed by the Porte, they are afraid to give offence to France by interfering, and allow the local authorities to act under the influence and direction of the French Consul and the foreign Roman Catholic priests.

I should feel much obliged to your Lordship if you would return Mr. Rassam's Report to me, as I might find an opportunity for bringing parts of it to the notice of the Porte. Mr. Rassam's despatch fell into the hands of the Russian authorities, with other correspondence taken in the "Mersine." It was forwarded to me through your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 605.

Mr. Rassam to Mr. Layard.

Mosul, November 26, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that after I despatched to your Excellency, from Wan, my letter dated 15th ultimo, I stayed there a week longer, as I wanted to know how the people of Bitlis and Moosh fared after I left them. On my arrival at Wan I represented to his Excellency Hassan Pasha a few of the cases of injustice which were brought to my notice by the Christian inhabitants of Bitlis and Moosh against the authorities there, and I particularly begged him to let me know whether the reports I had heard were true or false. For some reason or other I did not receive either a denial or confirmation of the complaints I had heard, and this leads me to believe that what I had heard was quite correct. Both the natives of Bitlis and Moosh complained that they could not obtain proper justice and protection from the authorities to enable them to live peaceably and safely with their Moslem townspeople. One of the complaints was that there had been a large and flourishing village of the name of Parkhaut, three miles from Bitlis, and almost within sight of that place, which contained about 150 houses, and had been repeatedly attacked by the lawless Koordish brigands of the Mootkee tribe; and as its inhabitants feared that these robbers might one day come down and destroy their village altogether, as they had done to others, they prayed the then Kaimakam, Bahran Bey, to give them some protection. The Governor sent them a number of zaptiehs, commanded by a Yuzbashi. This guard had not been there a week before a large party of the Mootkee tribe came down and carried off everything the poor villagers possessed, killed four men, and wounded four others. The police did not lift a finger

to protect them, and the inhabitants had then to fly for refuge to Bitlis, where they were received by the Armenian community as each family was able to do. No sooner had these poor refugees got some charitable fellow-Christians to take them in than the Kaimakam sent for some of their leading men, and demanded from them the arrears of taxes which they would be liable to had their village not been plundered. These poor paupers pleaded poverty, as the Mootkees had left them nothing, and that they were then living on the charity of the Armenians of Bitlis. The inhuman Kaimakam refused to listen to their just plea, but sent them forthwith to prison, and that was at a time when the snow lay thick on the ground, and the weather was severely cold. The leading Armenians of Bitlis went to the Governor to plead for the oppressed villagers, but the Kaimakam reprimanded them for their interference, and said that he must have the dues of the State enforced. When the Armenians found that their solicitations were unheeded they said they would try and collect 2,000 or 3,000 piastres amongst themselves if he would release the poor prisoners. He agreed to do so, but as soon as the 3,000 piastres were paid up he sent and had the refugees arrested again and imprisoned for the non-payment of the balance. I spoke to Hassan Pasha about sending back those villagers to their homes with a little succour, and he promised to do his best for them, which I fear will be very little just now, seeing that he himself was beset by worry and trouble on all sides when I left Wan.

2. The second complaint was that a Koord, native of Bitlis, had shot an Armenian on account of a pair of shoes, which the former had tried to obtain without payment. The matter was brought to the notice of the authorities, who would give little or no assistance to arrest the delinquent, but, to the surprise of all this very man, who could not be found before, was enlisted amongst the special constables a few days afterwards at Bitlis, in defiance of the law.

3. The third complaint was that a Circassian had brought into Moosh, from the seat of war, a Winchester rifle, and while he was exhibiting it at the bazaar he pointed it at an Armenian to show how it acted, and shot the man dead; and though the matter was brought to the notice of the authorities at once, they failed to arrest the murderer but allowed him to escape. When I was at Moosh he was living unmolested in a village not far from that town occupied by Circassian refugees. This story was denied by the Mutessarif of Moosh, who said that the man had been arrested, tried, and acquitted by the Council of the Governor-General of Wan, as the letting off of the gun had proved accidental. This story of the Mutessarif, however, was not confirmed by Hassan Pasha, the Governor-General.

4. The fourth complaint was made by the inhabitants of an Armenian village called Lattar, between Moosh and Wan, that a Koord of the Haidaranlee tribe had murdered one of their people because his father, who was a priest, refused to give him some corn that he wanted; and although the murderer was arrested and imprisoned awaiting his trial, he was allowed to escape.

5. The fifth complaint is about four Armenians of Moosh who had been incarcerated for months without being regularly tried on account of a zaptieh having been shot at night for entering a vineyard for an unlawful purpose. It appears that the Armenian owners of different vineyards outside Moosh had complained to the Mutessarif that their vineyards had been nearly stripped of their fruit by nocturnal marauding parties, and that the Pasha had authorized them to protect their property by force of arms. That one night four zaptiehs entered one of the vineyards in disguise to steal some grapes, and while the keepers of the vineyards were trying to protect their property they were shot at, and on their returning the fire, one of the robbers was killed. That the authorities were trying to make the case one of culpable homicide in order that the vineyard men might be made to pay blood-money, capital punishment being out of the question, seeing that it was quite impossible to prove whose shot killed the zaptieh. The Pasha of Moosh admitted that he had authorized the vineyard men to protect their property forcibly, but he expected them to use caution and not to shoot men at random, as it was in the case of the zaptieh, who was shot outside and not inside the vineyard. The Armenians, on the contrary, declare that the zaptieh was shot inside the vineyard, and that his accomplices carried the body out.

At I said on a former occasion, I did not come to this country to act as a Judge or a Court of Appeal, and unless I was authorized to act in one of these capacities it is quite impossible for me to tell where the truth lies. These are few of the number of grievances and complaints which were brought to my notice, and were I to report half of them, I would not only be worrying your Excellency, but feel that I am outstripping the line of my duty. Suffice it to say that if the Sublime Porte does not look into the condition of the peoples of this part of Asiatic Turkey, whether Christians, Moslems,

Jews, or Yazidees, and send some trustworthy agents to enforce order and justice, it would be quite impossible to save them from utter ruin.

6. When I was at Bitlis the Armenian shoemakers complained to me that they had been ordered by the authorities to supply 2,000 pairs of shoes for the use of the troops for 25 per cent. less than the actual cost price of the materials, and that if they did not do so they would all be sent to prison. They offered to supply the shoes at the cost of the material and wanted no payment for their labour; or else they begged the authorities to buy the materials and they and their children would work for nothing. When they found they could get no redress they threatened to close their shops and leave the place, but I begged the Kaïmakam to postpone the matter of payment for three days, until I went to Moosh and represented the case to the proper authorities there under whose orders the Kaïmakam was acting. On my reaching that place and speaking to the Acting Mutessarif about it, he denied absolutely the existence of such an arbitrary order, but said that they were merely making a bargain as is usual between buyer and seller. It happened as I was sitting with the Acting Mutessarif the new Kaïmakam of Bitlis, who was a Circassian, had just arrived from Constantinople, so I asked the Governor to speak to him about the matter. I then went to Wan, and I had not been there a week before complaints reached the authorities and myself from Bitlis against the arbitrary proceedings of the new Kaïmakam and the animus he was showing towards the Christians. It appeared, from Mr. Knapp's complaint to me, that their new Governor had sent for the shoemakers and told them that if they did not supply the 2,000 pairs of shoes at once, and at the price he fixed, he would send them all to prison; and he added that they ought to remember the tragedy of Bulgaria and take care that it is not resented at Bitlis. Upon this the fanatical Moslems of Bitlis took courage and recommenced ill-treating and plundering the Christians in that town. I represented the seriousness of the matter to his Excellency Hasan Pasha, who immediately telegraphed to the Mutessarif of Moosh to make a minute inquiry into the case, and if the complaints that reached Wan proved true, he was to suspend the Circassian Governor of Bitlis and place some trustworthy officer to carry on the work until he would submit the matter to higher authority. When I met Hasan Pasha afterwards and asked him about the upshot of his inquiry into the conduct of the Kaïmakam of Bitlis, he told me that he had suspended him.

7. The last time I met Hasan Pasha on the 22nd ultimo he told me that the Porte had ordered a large number of troops for putting down Koordish excesses in the Pashalik of Diarbekir and Wan, and that Nazim Bey, one of the Commissioners for settling the Turko-Persian boundary, had been appointed to command the expedition. But I have heard since then, I am sorry to say, that in consequence of the want of troops by Mukhtar Pasha, the Commander-in-chief at Erzeroum, all those who were destined for the protection of the peaceful inhabitants of the Diarbekir and Wan Vilayets have been ordered to proceed towards Kars, and that the Koords in those two provinces are giving immense trouble.

8. The first district I visited after I left Wan was that of Albac, bordering on Western Persia. I found the distress of the Christians in that kaza most pitiable, because in the beginning of last spring the Persian Koords called the "Shikak" had plundered them of everything they had, burnt their houses, and destroyed their churches. After having by their industry and hard labour provided themselves with some provisions for this winter, they were called upon to assist in provisioning Bayazid, and they were ordered actually to transport what is required of them on their backs, as they had no animals left them to do the work. Ahmed Agha, son of the notorious brigand Ahmed Khan, the chief of the Shikak Koords, had had some dispute with his father, and had left Persia with a large part of his tribe, and took refuge in Albac; and it appears, that since his immigration into Turkey he has been behaving well, and his presence has insured the natives of Albac the required protection. The inhabitants of Bash-Kala, Christians, Jews, and Mahomedans, begged me to write to the Governor-General of Wan, and ask him to appoint Ahmed Agha, chief of that part of the Shikak tribe which had come into Turkey, as they hoped that by having him in such a position in Albac there would be no more fear from further molestation on the part of his father. As I did not hear anything against this chief I wrote, as I was asked, to Hasan Pasha, and recommended the scheme to his favourable consideration.

9. From Albac I proceeded to Kochanis, as I was afraid to venture to Gawar on account of the heavy rains that had been falling for some days before I left Wan, and if I delayed much longer in Koordistan I might have been shut in the Nestorian mountains for the winter. I found, on arriving at Kochanis that Mar Shamoun was away at Mar Sawa, in the Legari mountains, and a day's journey from Ashutha, whither he had gone to reside for some time past from his fear of both the Turkish authorities and his hereditary enemies the Koords. I met there his venerable father, Mshamshana Bunyamin, with whom I stayed two days, and learnt from him the news.

10. From Kochanis I proceeded to Julamaick, where, I am sorry to say, I found the same distress, yet, in many respects, not as great as it was in the districts which were plundered by the Persian Koords, and by those who went to the Jehad. In this district the powerful Koords refused to render any assistance to the State, and those of the Christians and peaceful Mahomedans who were under the immediate control of the authorities, had nothing more left them to be of any use.

Both the Nestorians of Ewin and the Koords of Sikaiha have deserted their districts, and I saw them marching southward in a wretched condition, to seek livelihood elsewhere. The Kaïmakam of Julamaick, Osman Effendi, who is a very good man, and who had only been there a few months, assured me that he found that district so poor when he arrived there, that he had not the heart to enforce the payment of the arrears of taxes, and he feared that during this winter both the officials and the natives would suffer from want of provisions. As soon as it was found out at Julamaick that animals were wanted to transport provisions to Bayazid, the natives sent away their mules and horses out of the way, and so they rendered no assistance to their Government, nor were they able to make use of their animals themselves to provide their families with victuals for the winter. There were two companies of infantry there, which had been ordered up to Bash-Kala for the last two months, but the difficulty of obtaining animals for transporting their necessary baggage was such that I fear they would not be able to move before next spring. I found all the authorities very much enraged against Mar Shamoun and the Nestorians, because they said that they had rendered no assistance whatever to the State, nor had they paid their proper taxes for some years past. On my arrival at Wan there was a general outcry against them, and everyone declared that Mar Shamoun had rebelled and refused to pay any taxes. I believe that the authorities had represented to the Porte that the Nestorians were troublesome, and, in consequence of which, the general belief was that they were going to be punished, and the Koords were ready to attack them. My presence there, however, discouraged their enemies and insured the Nestorians for the present peace and quietness. While I was at Julamaick a complaint was made to me by the Colonel there of a riot that had taken place in the Nestorian Province of Diz on account of the forcible release of some mules belonging to the Julamaick people, which had been engaged for the troops. The authorities declared to me that the Nestorians were the guilty party, especially as a corporal and two privates belonging to the two companies at Julamaick, who were passing through Diz with these mules, complained that they were maltreated and beaten by them. But, on my sending one of Mar Shamoun's people to inquire into the matter, he came back and reported that the people of Diz had nothing to do with the release of the mules nor with the beating of the soldiers, but that the Julamaick Koords themselves and their Moslem friends were to blame.

11. From Julamaick I proceeded to Mar Sawa; and when I arrived there, I found that Mar Shamoun had gone away on some business into Tekhopa, but he returned the next day, and we had a long talk together about different matters touching the welfare of his people and his misunderstanding with the Turkish authorities. He laughed at the idea of his being thought rebellious, but he admitted that some of his people had not paid all their taxes on account of their poverty and of the isolated position and poorness of their country. He said, further, that it must also be taken into consideration that his people had been semi-prisoners for nearly two years without being able to venture any distance out of the country for the purposes of trade from fear of the bands of robbers who have been infesting the highways between them and Mossul. I told Mar Shamoun that the Turkish authorities had complained of his having refused to pay any taxes for more than a year, and that his people owed the Public Treasury, for arrears of twenty-three years' taxes, the enormous sum of 1,476,493 piastres, and I asked him to let me know how the taxes were levied, and how this tremendous amount of nearly 1,500,000 piastres was accumulated. He said that his country was visited twice or three times by Special Commissioners, for the purpose of regulating its taxes, and that, after they stayed some time, they went away with the idea that his people were able to pay what was imposed upon them; that his people had been paying what was proper and right according to their ability; but it appears that the Wan authorities were making different calculations, and year after year they have been overtaxing the Nestorians on paper, and omitting to include most of what was paid to the Julamaick Treasury from time to time. He declared that on many occasions, when the Maliks of the different Nestorian districts took their taxes to Julamaick, the money was taken from them without their

being able to obtain any acknowledgment for it. Both Mar Shamoun and his people expressed their heartfelt gratitude to your Excellency for having sent me to inquire into their condition, and they said that they will ever feel grateful to the British nation for their constant sympathy with the weak and helpless, especially in the case of the Nestorians who are beset on every side by enemies, both Moslems and Christians. I am glad to say that from what I have seen of the Tegari villages which I have visited they seemed to me in a flourishing condition, and it is to be hoped that the Porte will not listen to evil reporters, and allow the Nestorians to be ill-treated. For the present they dare not venture as far as Imadia or Mossul from fear of the Koords, who are always ready for mischief. While I was at Ashutha the other day the Heikee Koords attacked their shepherds a few miles from Imadia, killed one of them, and carried off about 4,000 sheep. I have spoken to the Governor of Mossul about this last outrage, and he told me that he had sent to the Heikees to demand the restoration of the sheep and the punishment of the murderer. I am afraid that he will not be able to enforce either the one or the other, as all the nomadic Koordish tribes in this Pashalik are also very troublesome, and are more or less rebellious. Mar Shamoun has written to your Excellency a letter, which I have the honour to inclose herewith, with its translation.

12. From Mar Lawa I went to Ashutha, whence I proceeded to Upper Barwaia to speak to the Ameer of that district, Tatar Khan Bey, to befriend and protect the Nestorians when they happened to pass through his district. A priest and three other Nestorians went with me, whom I introduced to the Ameer. He received them very civilly, and promised to treat the Nestorians as his own people and children. He said he regretted that he could not insure them a safe passage either to Imadia or Mossul, as there were too many unruly Koords on the way, especially at Imadia, where there was no security either to life or property. Tatarkhan Bey is considered to be the most peaceful and honest Koordish Chief in Koordistan. With regard to justice and protection to life and property, he makes no distinction between Moslem and Christian; and in his district everyone enjoys peace and quietness. It is a pity that such a good man is not properly rewarded, because it is believed that if he were to be supported by the authorities, and some power given him, he would soon be able to restore order and tranquillity in this part of Koordistan.

There is also here a most invaluable man for keeping order amongst the Koords, and who is well known for his impartial justice and upright intercourse with all classes of Moslems and Christians; but as he had had some dishonest enemies, and the authorities are too timid to do what is right, he is allowed to remain without employ, and others who cannot manage the Koords are left to govern them. I spoke to your Excellency about this gentleman when I was at Constantinople, and I believe you sent in his name to the Porte. His name is Hassan Effendi Riza Charkais, who had formerly held most important positions both in Koordistan and Mesopotamia.

13. From Barwari I proceeded to Imadia, where I stayed two days. Both the authorities there and the villagers complained to me about the unhappy state of the country on account of the ravages that were being committed every day upon the peaceful inhabitants of the district by the lawless Koords. As I was leaving Imadia on the 12th instant, the Kaimakam and the members of his local Council came and told me they had just heard that the Malik of Legari was reported to be coming with a large force to attack the district of Imadia, as a revenge for the murder of the shepherd and loss of his sheep, and they begged me to write and prevent him from committing the ravages intended. I wrote, therefore, as I was desired, and begged him to keep quiet and not to take the law into his hand, and that I would see about the restoration of his lost property, and claim satisfaction for the murder of the Nestorian when I came to Mossul.

14. I have not been able to trace the existence of one single Christian captive amongst the Koords of whom I had heard so much from Armenians and others. At Kozu, a Nestorian village in Albac, I was told by its inhabitants that they had seen some Koords who were returning to their country from the seat of war, with five children supposed to have been taken from Bayazid. Others reported that the Rawarduz and Sulaimania Koords had come back from the destroyed Armenian districts with a number of captive women and children. Winter having set in earlier than usual, I have not been able to visit those districts, but I am sending some Mahommedan emissaries amongst those people to find out if there are really any Christian captives with them.

15. I regret to say there is as much insecurity to life and property in the Province of Mossul, as exists in the Pashaliks of Wan and Diarbekir; and the calling out of the Reserves and the Militia, together with the news of the capture of Kars, has created

intense consternation amongst the Christian inhabitants of this town. Mostafa Pasha, the Mutesarif of Mossul, is weak and vacillating, and worst than all he does not seem to keep his promises; the consequence is his Pashalik is allowed to be governed by the zaptiehs, who do as they please, both by plundering the people and by allowing the guilty to escape punishment, and the innocent to pay for the crime of others.

16. I find I have to visit Baghdad before I can assist the Nestorians and other peaceful inhabitants of Koordistan, as the Governor of Mossul cannot do anything without the sanction of that vilayet. The Mutesarif told me that he had represented the insecurity of the roads and the unmanageable obstructiveness of the Koords to the Governor-General of Baghdad, and asked for some troops to put down Koordish excesses, but he had not been listened to. His Excellency said that he only wanted about 500 men, whom the Governor-General could easily spare, for keeping order in this Province. It seems to me that all the Turkish officials have lost their heads, and those from whom tact and energy is expected in this critical time are unequal to the task.

17. Mossul is reckoned to be one of the most important provinces in Asiatic Turkey; and, taking its great trade into consideration, together with the troublesome Arab and Koordish nomadic tribes that live under its rule, requires to be an independent Pashalik, as it was a few years ago, and not left under the Vilayet of Baghdad, whose Governor-General can never know the real wants of the province. It is admitted on all sides that if Mossul were to be constituted again an independent Pashalik, the Governor of the place would possess more influence and power over the Arabs and Koords than he has now. They would then fear and respect him the more when they find that he is free in his actions to punish the unruly without awaiting the orders of a higher authority beyond the Sublime Porte. I feel sure that all the Mossul people, whether Mahommedans or Christians, will ever feel grateful to the Porte and to your Excellency were you to use your influence with His Imperial Majesty's Government to grant them this boon. It may be urged that, with the present financial difficulty of the Porte, it is quite impossible to sanction such a measure just now, inasmuch as the expense of constituting Mossul a vilayet would double the expense of the local Government of the place. But what is required for Mossul at present is an independent Mutsarifilik, called in Turkish "Mutsarifiie Mostakilla," and not a vilayet. The only extra expense the independent Mutsarifilik requires is that attending the Court of Appeal, which I am told will be very small, and the burden of which the inhabitants would be willing to bear. Should your Excellency be able to induce the Porte to constitute Mossul an independent Pashalik, a measure which would prove of immense advantage to the State, and for the welfare of the Sultan's subjects, the Kaza of Jazeera ought to be given back to it, as it was formerly, and not to be left under the Vilayet of Diarbekir; because there are Koordish nomadic tribes in that district which spend part of the year in the province of Mossul, and, on their return to their old habitation, they plunder and kill at their pleasure. By the time the Government of Mossul represent the outrage to the Governor-General of Baghdad, and from Baghdad the complaint is lodged at Diarbekir, and from Diarbekir the matter is referred to Jazeera, from whence the complaint is answered through the same channels, the plundered property is lost sight of, and the murderer escapes punishment. In the beginning of this spring one of the Jazeera nomadic tribes, called "Goyan," was encamping near Zakho, in the province of Mossul; and while the Nestorian shepherds of Ashutha were seeking pasture for their flocks some distance off, a party of that tribe attacked them, killed four of them, and carried off about 4,000 sheep. Up to to-day nothing has been done to recover the sheep or to punish the murderers.

18. I beg leave to submit to your Excellency's attention, for recommendation to the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government, the advisability of appointing Consuls or Vice-Consuls at Diarbekir and Wan. I feel confident that in those two important districts British interests and influence require that England should be represented there. It would also be most necessary to have unpaid native Consular Agents at Suart, Bitlis, Moush, and Julamerick. It is quite impossible for British Consuls to obtain correct information on the border of Russia and Persia about the state of the country without such means.

19. I intend to examine into the Church dispute between the Syrian Jacobites and Syrian Catholics in the beginning of next week, and I shall report the result to your Excellency in due time.

20. With regard to the quarrel existing between the Chaldeans of Mossul and their Patriarch, there is no doubt that the latter is trying, through foreign influence at the Turkish capital, to coerce the former to accept what they consider to be a wicked innovation on the part of the Vatican for interfering with their rights. It appears that the Pope had issued a "bull" in 1869, addressed to the Chaldean community, wherein he

prohibits them from exercising their old-established rights of choosing for themselves Bishops and Patriarchs, but left the selection to the sole control of the Roman Pontiff. For six years the Patriarch refused to accept Rome's mandate; but lately, through the threat of excommunication, and, as it is reported, for pecuniary consideration, he has submitted to the order of the Vatican without ever consulting his community. As soon as the Chaldeans found what he had done they cast him off, and the few priests and bishops who adhered to him they turned out of their churches. All the Chaldean villages did the same; and, with the exception of a few extreme Chaldean Papists, one and all declare that they would sooner dissever themselves from the Church of Rome altogether than submit to its tyrannical interference with their rights. This independence on the part of the Chaldeans did not, of course, suit the Latin priests here, who were the originators of this quarrel, and so by their influence with the French Consul here and the French Embassy at Constantinople, coupled with the weakness of the authorities, they have been trying to bully and persecute the whole Chaldean community to compel them to obey the Patriarch. It appears that by some extraordinary order from the Porte, which is said to have been got through the intrigue of the Latin priests at the Turkish capital, the Governor of Mossul had been ordered to support the Patriarch, who was to have the entire control of the Church property, in defiance to law and justice. The Chaldeans have protested against such an irregular proceeding, and have petitioned the Porte to protect them from injustice. Some of the Chaldeans, I am told, had been beaten, maltreated, imprisoned, and even wounded, by the few Papal adherents of the Patriarch, without obtaining redress. One man, who is dangerously ill from wounds received, complained to me that he had petitioned the Pasha of Mossul three times to have his case looked into, but could get no answer. As I found this poor man's condition most pitiable, I spoke to Mustafa Pasha about it, and though he promised to look into it, he has as yet taken no notice of the case, though the man may die from his wounds. It is further asserted that whenever any of the Patriarch's party complain against the rejectors of the "bull," they are punished severely; but if one of the other party complains on account of wrongs done him, he is not listened to. The Pasha has told me enough to convince me that the French Embassy at Constantinople is using its influence with the Porte to force the Chaldeans to submit to the dictates of Rome, which is in reality an interference with the Sultan's rights, as His Majesty alone is the proper person in these realms to sanction the appointment of bishops or not, seeing that none of these dignitaries can exercise his ecclesiastical functions without a Firman. The Chaldeans have also petitioned the Porte to allow them to constitute one of the bishops who rejected the Pope's "bull," and who possesses a Firman, as their ecclesiastical head until they choose themselves another Patriarch, but they have received no answer. I am told that the Chaldeans, finding their enemies at Constantinople too powerful for them, have petitioned your Excellency and the German Ambassador to represent their case to the Porte, and insure them justice and freedom of action in their spiritual matters. Even the Mahommedans are surprised at the extraordinary conduct of the authorities, because they wisely remark that, supposing the Patriarch, his bishops, and all his priests were to turn Mahommedans, would the Chaldean community be compelled to do the same? The answer is, of course, No. After I settle the dispute between the Syrians, I shall try if I can manage to settle matters amicably between the Chaldeans and their Patriarch. For the present, I have been enabled to quiet all parties.

21. I must also bring to your Excellency's notice the wretched condition under which the poor Yazudees are labouring. For the last two years they have been in a deplorable condition on account of some mischievous men, who, to suit their end, have been setting them against each other, and through this they have got themselves into immense trouble. Poor Hosain Bey has been incarcerated in the common jail under false accusation of murder, without any legitimate proof or legal verdict. The Mooftee of Mossul, Yonis Effendi, who is really a pious Moslem and is reckoned to be one of the most honest, liberal, and upright men in the legal profession, and the most learned in the Mahommedan jurisprudence, refused to listen to what he calls diabolical conspiracy, and he was so plain in his language to the authorities (who wanted to condemn Hosain Bey) about their injustice that they had to complain to the Porte about him, and they tried to have him dismissed, but Sheikh-ul-Islam refused to listen to them. Sheikh Nassir, who is at present at Mossul, tells me that the Governor of Mossul is trying to persuade the Yazudees to appoint themselves another Ameer in the place of Hosain Bey, and that they had told him this could never be, as that would be against the rules of their religion. Former authorities, to suit their purposes, had set the Yazudees, as loggerheads, and by these undue means they have got them all into trouble. Were the affairs of the Yazudees left to me I feel confident that I could settle them in a week

by summoning the chiefs to meet at Mossul. I am told that if the Porte were to examine into their case and see the depositions that were taken at what is called "sham trial" of Hosain Bey, more than one Pasha would get into trouble on account of his illegal imprisonment.

22. In conclusion I beg to state that during the whole of my travels in Asia Minor, Armenia, and Koordistan, I received nothing but kindness, civility, and attention from all classes with whom I came in contact, whether Turks, Koords, or Christians; and I owe it to the Ottoman authorities to state that all those to whom my duty called me were most scrupulous to serve me and render me every assistance possible; some of the officials themselves very often helped me in obtaining correct information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. RASSAM.

No. 606.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 164.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 4, 1878.*

COSTAKI PASHA ADOSSIDES, the Christian Commissioner recently sent to Crete to inquire into the grievances of the Christian inhabitants, has been named Civil Governor, and Mehemet Ali Pasha has been appointed to the military command of the island.

Both appointments are good, and under other circumstances might have led to excellent results.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 607.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 165.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 4, 1878.*

THE only information that I have received from Consul Blunt, since the Russians have occupied Adrianople, is contained in a private letter from him dated 23rd ultimo. He states that the French, Austrian, and Greek Consuls had most cordially acted with him under most trying circumstances, and that it was very much owing to their attitude that the town and its inhabitants have been protected from disturbances which at the moment were imminent. The Christians began pillaging and ill-treating a few stragglers from Suleiman Pasha's army; but with the assistance of the seventy-two Turkish regular troops left behind for the protection of the Consulates by the Turkish authorities, the four Consuls succeeded in preventing the continuance of such disorders.

The Greek Consul, M. Gennadius, Mr. Blunt writes, has cordially assisted in maintaining order. He has a large community in Adrianople, and it was very much owing to his prudent and firm action that the Greek element was quiet and assisted the Consuls in preserving tranquillity. I would venture to suggest to your Lordship that M. Gennadius' conduct should be brought to the notice of the Greek Government.

Mr. Blunt regrets to state that people began to complain of the conduct of the Cossacks. So far no cruelties, that he knew of, had been perpetrated by them in the city; but they had begun pillaging, and on the previous day had forcibly entered twenty-five houses, including one Austrian, and had carried off some of their contents.

Mr. Blunt adds that the Russians had not been very enthusiastically received, and that the Russian officers made no secret of the intention of the Russian armies to march on Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 608.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 166.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship of the following Ministerial changes:—

The office of Grand Vizier is abolished, and Ahmed Vefyk Pasha is appointed Prime Minister, or President of the Council, and Minister of the Interior.

Server Pasha remains Minister for Foreign Affairs; Raouf Pasha remains Minister of War; Said Pasha remains Minister of Marine; Khaïri Pasha remains Minister of Finance; Ohannes Effendi becomes Minister of Commerce and Public Works; Khourchid Pasha, Minister of Justice; Salvet Pasha, President of the Council of State; and Soubhi Pasha, Minister of Evkaf and Public Instruction.

Said Pasha, the Sultan's ex-Secretary, becomes Minister of the Civil List, but without a seat in the Cabinet. Namyk Pasha replaces Mahmoud Pasha Damat as Grand Master of Artillery.

Hamdi Pasha, the ex-Grand Vizier, is named Governor of Smyrna, Djevdet Pasha Governor of Syria, and Cahir Pasha Governor of Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 609.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 167.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 4, 1878.*

ACTING upon the now well-recognized principle of international law, that in order to establish a legitimate claim to a neighbour's territories one has only to cause a disturbance in them, Greece has invaded Turkey. Prudently following the example set to her by Servia, she has waited until the Turks are down, and can offer little resistance to a wanton aggression. Blood will flow afresh, fields and villages will be devastated, and thousands of old men, women, and children, will be driven from their homes to die of want, or to live in hopeless misery. But as this is done in the purest spirit of philanthropy and religion, the invaders will probably be wished God-speed in their holy mission.

As your Lordship is aware, for months past agents from Greece have been endeavouring to excite the Christian populations of the border provinces to rise against the Turkish rule. Bands of armed men have occasionally crossed the frontier, and have sought to stir up the people to revolt. These attempts to cause insurrection in Turkey, which, as usual, have been disavowed by the Hellenic Government, have not failed to produce some of the results hoped from them. Although there has been no rising, the inhabitants of Thessaly and Epirus having no particular sympathy for their deliverers, the Porte, alarmed by the conduct of its friendly neighbour, felt itself under the necessity of sending troops to protect its territories from attack. Having but a small force of regular troops at its disposal, in consequence of the gigantic struggle in which it was engaged with Russia and her auxiliaries, it sent Albanian and other irregulars to the threatened districts. As might have been expected, these lawless people committed some depredations in the villages. Their conduct furnished the excuse required by the Greek Government. An indictment was framed against Turkey and presented to Her Majesty's Government, and, I believe, to other European Powers, in which she was accused of being responsible for innumerable outrages and massacres committed upon her Greek subjects in Thessaly. There is every reason to believe that the statements it contained, like others of a similar nature coming from the same quarter, were greatly and designedly exaggerated. But upon this point I cannot speak confidently until I have received a report upon the subject, which I have directed Mr. Longworth to make to me after inquiries on the spot.

The Turkish authorities did their best to restrain the license of these unpaid and lawless irregular levies. Your Lordship will remember that, partly on my representations, the Porte prevented the further employment of Albanians in Thessaly, and stopped those who were on their way to the Hellenic frontier. It called back a good many of these irregulars, and offered to withdraw them all if it could only obtain some explicit and trustworthy assurance from Greece that she would not make an unprovoked war upon Turkey. Such an assurance, as your Lordship knows, the Hellenic Government evaded giving. It carried on, persistently and undisguisedly, its military preparations and its intrigues amongst the Turkish populations until the time is now ripe for open war.

M. Coundouriotis called upon me yesterday, in some alarm, to consult me as to what he should do under the circumstances. He had not, he said, received any intimation from his Government of the entrance of Greek regular troops into Turkey; nor had he been instructed how to act under the circumstances. No declaration of war had been made by Greece, and he did not clearly understand his position now that an invasion of Turkey had actually taken place. I told my colleague that I could only refer him to the writers on international law, one of whom, who was considered a great authority on the continent of

Europe, pronounced hostilities committed against a friendly nation, without a previous declaration of war, an act of brigandage, which placed those who committed it under the ban of nations, and exposed them to the penalties of piracy.* The Porte might resort to strong measures of reprisal against Greek subjects and Greek trade and shipping. I did not, however, believe that it would have recourse to any measures of the kind. Fortunately, I could not help saying, he had to deal with one of the few Powers which had some respect for Treaties and some sense of international comity and courtesy. M. Coundouriotis observed that he did not fear any injury to Greek trade, as most Greek enterprises in Turkey had a foreign element in them, with which the Porte would not dare to interfere. As to hostile measures against Greece, she was quite capable of meeting them, and whatever might befal her in a war with the Turks she would come well out of it in the end.

The Porte has received no information up to this time from its Minister at Athens as to the intentions and proceedings of the Hellenic Government. Several telegrams from Photiades Bey, probably from the opportune incapacity of the transmitting clerk, were undecypherable. It has only learnt from the Turkish authorities in Thessaly that Greek regular troops have entered that province. Its first impulse was to order Hobart Pasha to proceed with four iron-clads and two transports and a considerable body of men, I am told about twenty battalions, under Baker Pasha, to the Piræus or Syra. Those officers were ordered to hold themselves in readiness for the service. But it was subsequently decided to make an appeal to the Powers in a Circular sent to the Turkish Representatives, of which I inclose a copy in case your Lordship may not have received one. It is now, I believe, contemplated to send the ships and troops to Volo. The new Ministry under Ahmed Vefyk Pasha will, I trust, act with prudence and caution under the trying circumstances in which the country is placed. It is unfortunate that after recent experience they can have little hope in the success of an appeal to the sanctity of Treaties and the justice of Europe. It is, I have reason to know, chiefly out of deference to England and of a desire not to cause her embarrassment that the Porte has not already taken against Greece the measures of reprisals which she so fully deserves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 609.

Circular addressed to Turkish Representatives abroad.

Sublime Porte, le 3 Février, 1878.

AINSI que je vous le faisais présenter par mon télégramme d'hier, le Gouvernement Grec a fait franchir le même jour la frontière par ses troupes en déclarant que la Thessalie étant en état d'insurrection, il avait décidé d'y envoyer son armée pour protéger les Chrétiens et les Musulmans sans distinction, et qu'il espérait que la Sublime Porte et les Puissances Européennes ne manqueront pas de regarder cette action comme un acte de pure philanthropie, la Grèce n'ayant aucun désir de rompre ses relations avec la Turquie.

Le prétexte mis ainsi en avant par le Cabinet d'Athènes ne saurait se justifier d'aucune manière. En effet, l'ordre et la tranquillité n'ont pas cessé de régner dans toutes les parties des vilayets de Yanina et de Salonique, malgré les efforts que des bandes armées qui ont franchi la frontière ont déployés pour y jeter le trouble et le désordre. Et lorsque maintenant le Gouvernement Hellénique fait marcher ses troupes sous le prétexte d'apaiser des troubles il se rend évidemment coupable d'une violation du droit des gens que rien ne saurait atténuer ni faire excuser.

Votre Excellence sait, d'autre part, que la Grèce a toujours expliqué ses armements par la nécessité où elle se trouvait, disait-elle, de protéger l'élément Grec en Turquie contre toute prepondérance de l'élément Slave. Or, ce motif ne saurait être invoqué aujourd'hui, toutes les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe devant être, d'après les bases générales de paix signées avec la Russie, dotées de nouvelles réformes. C'est donc vers un tout autre but que tendent les visées et les velléités du Gouvernement Hellénique. Quoiqu'il en soit, le Gouvernement Impérial, au moment où ses populations, déjà si éprouvées par les calamités de la guerre, espèrent pouvoir jouir des bienfaits de la paix, se trouvent dans la pénible nécessité de repousser par la force l'invasion de la Grèce, et il a déjà pris dans ce but toutes les mesures commandés par les circonstances.

Nous aimons à espérer pourtant que les Grandes Puissances, qui déplorent autant que nous l'effusion du sang, voudront bien faire entendre à Athènes les conseils propres à déter-

* Hautefeuille, "Des Droits," tit. 3, ch. 2, p. 1.

miner la Grèce à renoncer à une attitude qui menace de provoquer de nouvelles et de terribles calamités, qu'il y aura lieu de déplorer d'autant plus amèrement qu'elles auront été le résultat d'enterprises aussi aventureuses qu'inconsidérées. Mieux instruit sur la situation, le Gouvernement Hellénique ne devrait pas hésiter un instant à rappeler de la Thessalie les forces qui y ont fait irruption. Veuillez donc prier, au nom de la Sublime Porte, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de . . . de faire à Athènes des démarches pressantes et efficaces pour remettre, tant qu'il est temps encore, le Gouvernement Hellénique dans la voie de la légalité et de la loyauté.

No. 610.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 168.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 4, 1878.

AT a private meeting held yesterday by some of the most influential Turkish deputies, it was decided to propose to the Chamber two resolutions: one directed against the Ministers and advisers of the Sultan, the other demanding that those ex-Ministers and Generals who have been placed under restraint, or against whom charges of misconduct or mismanagement have been made, should be brought to trial at once, and either condemned or acquitted. It was evident, from the feeling recently shown by the Chamber, that both these resolutions would be carried. The knowledge that such would be the case may have produced the Ministerial crisis which has ended in the removal of the Grand Vizier, the abolition of that office, and the appointment of Ahmed Vefyk Pasha as Prime Minister.

To-day, on the motion of Tewfik Effendi, Member for Koniah, the Chamber decided, by a large majority, to prevent the departure of Mehemet Ali Pasha to take the military command in Crete, to which he has been recently appointed, until he has been brought before a Court Martial, and the reasons for his removal on more than one occasion from his functions in the army cleared up. This appears to be an unwise and unnecessary proceeding, considering the present state of the island. Some believe that its indirect object is to bring Suleiman Pasha to trial.

The Chamber also decided to call upon the Government to proceed immediately with the trial of the ex-Grand Vizier Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, now in exile in Scio, and of the Generals and others who were banished to Lemnos last summer, including Redif and Abdul Kerim Pashas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 611.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 169.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 4, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of the Imperial Hatt, or decree, removing Hamdi Pasha from the office of Grand Vizier, which it abolishes, and naming Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, Prime Minister.

This document is of great importance, as proving the desire of the Sultan to carry out the provisions of the Constitution with regard to Ministerial responsibility, and as making fundamental changes in the organization of the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 611.

Imperial Hatt.

Constantinople, le 4 Février, 1878.

Mon Illustre Vézir, Ahmed Vefik Pacha,

J'AI cru nécessaire de relever Hamdi Pacha de ses fonctions de Grand Vizir et d'abolir en même temps ce poste.

Comme il découle des dispositions de la Charte que les Ministres sont responsables

individuellement des faits et actes de leur gestion et collectivement des affaires publiques, j'ai créé une nouvelle charge, celle de Premier Ministre, dont les attributions sont:

Premièrement, de me présenter les décisions prises sur les questions qui seront discutées dans le Conseil des Ministres et dehors des affaires propres à chaque Département Ministériel, lesquelles seront gérées sous la responsabilité personnelle des titulaires respectifs et soumises directement par eux;

Deuxièmement, de soumettre à ma sanction des projets de lois votés par la Chambre des Députés et adoptés par le Sénat;

Troisièmement, de présider le Conseil des Ministres.

Vu vos capacités et votre droiture, je vous ai nommé mon Premier Ministre, en vous confiant en même temps les fonctions de Ministre de l'Intérieur.

Le Ministère est composé exclusivement des Départements suivants:—

Département de Premier Ministre et Ministre de l'Intérieur;
Département du Cheik-ul-Islam;
Ministère de la Guerre;
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères;
Ministère de la Marine;
Ministère de la Justice;
Présidence du Conseil d'Etat;
Grand'maîtrise de l'Artillerie;
Ministère des Finances;
Ministère de l'Evkaf;
Ministère de l'Instruction Publique;
Ministère des Travaux Publics;
Ministère du Commerce.

J'ai sanctionné le choix que vous avez fait pour chacun de ces départements.

Que le Très-Haut bénisse nos efforts!

Composition du Nouveau Ministère.

Ahmet Véfik Pacha, Président du Conseil des Ministres et Ministre de l'Intérieur;
Halil Effendi, Cheikh-ul-Islam;
Réouf Pacha, Ministre de la Guerre;
Server Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères;
Saïd Pacha, Ministre de la Marine;
Kourchid Pacha, Ministre de la Justice;
Safvet Pacha, Président du Conseil d'Etat;
Namyk Pacha, Grand Maître de l'Artillerie;
Kiani Pacha, Ministre des Finances;
Soubi Pacha, Ministre de l'Instruction Publique et de l'Evkaf;
Ohanès Effendi Tchamitch, Ministre des Travaux Publics et du Commerce;
Saïd Pacha (ex-Ministre de l'Intérieur), Ministre de la Liste Civile.

Par Ordonnance Impériale, ont été nommés:—

Hamdi Pacha, Vali d'Aïdin;
Cadri Pacha, Vali de Sivas;
Djevdet Pacha, Vali de Syrie;
Ahmet Rassim Pacha, Préfet de la Ville;
Emin Bey, Sénateur, Mustéchar du Président du Conseil des Ministres.

No. 612.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 170.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 4, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by Colonel Blunt, an English officer in the Turkish gendarmerie, who has been most kindly and efficiently distributing relief to the fugitives from the seat of war in connection with Baroness Burdett-Coutts' "Compassionate Fund." It will give your Lordship some, although but

a very inadequate, idea, shocking as are its details, of the terrible suffering and misery to which these unfortunate creatures are exposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 612.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, February 1, 1878.

Your Excellency,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I arrived at Tchorlou from Adrianople on the 12th ultimo, and found the station crowded with trains. (From Adrianople to Tchorlou the line is chiefly on the descent, and many of the trains were very long and heavy.)

During Monday, the 14th, a serious accident occurred near Hadem-Keui. An engine and seven carriages ran off the line, killing twenty-three people, injuring many others, and tearing the road up for nearly a mile. This unfortunate *contre-temps* delayed the progress of all trains for about three days, and was the cause of much additional suffering (and very clearly brought home the great disadvantage of a single line of rails).

The trains were composed almost entirely of open cattle-trucks and luggage-vans.

The latter were crammed to excess, oftentimes containing as many as eighty and ninety women and children. The roofs were covered with human creatures, as also were the spaces between the carriages, the people, in their anxiety to get away, having placed planks on the buffers and coupling-chains. During the three days' delay, we had nearly 20,000 people in the station, including those who had their passes, but, thanks to the relief given them, no troubles or disturbances of any kind arose. Other station-masters, hearing I was at Tchorlu, telegraphed to me for assistance, stating that the fugitives were starving, and, in some instances, adding that the lives of the employés had been threatened, and that they feared an *émeute*. I sent off bread by special engines kindly placed at my disposal to Muratli Kiupru, Teherkess-keui, and Sinekly, and so, by supplying their wants, quieted them again. On my return to Constantinople, the 26th ultimo, I was thanked by these station-masters for the timely assistance given, one presenting me with the accompanying declaration:—

"Je déclare avec satisfaction que sur la dépêche que j'ai adressé à M. Colonel Blunt, j'ai reçu du pain nécessaire juste au temps pour sauver les émigrés de la famine qui régnait parmi eux, et avec cela il a été évité des excès qui pourraient facilement avoir lieu. Je remercie ici, de ma part et celui des émigrés, pour la bienfaisance de 'Turkish Compassionate Fund.'

(Signé) "A. H. ARIAN,
Le Chef de Station Sinekly."

It would be impossible even to attempt to describe the misery these wretched refugees underwent during their transit from Adrianople, which lasted seldom less than four days, and frequently, on account of the accidents, extending over seven and eight. They experienced every kind of weather, snow, frost, wind and rain. I need hardly add that many succumbed to these hardships. Every morning the dead were collected and buried by the authorities. On the arrival of a train, little knots of people would be seen here and there scratching the earth over the remains of a wife, daughter, or child, lost on the road. Many of the children who died were simply thrown out, either by the side of the line or into one of the numerous rivers the train crosses. Mothers too have even killed their offspring. One day, not 100 yards from a train, and in view of all, a woman took her two children, about five and three years old, and plunged a dagger into each of their hearts. On interrogation, she stated, "She had done so to prevent the possibility of their experiencing the misery she had already gone through, the wretchedness she was now enduring, and that still loomed in the distance."

I am happy to say that the Kaïmakam did what he could to alleviate the sufferings of the people; that he worked in unison with me, and furnished a considerable quantity of bread and biscuit.

The discomfort of these poor people can be somewhat imagined when I inform you that at each station crowds were waiting with their orders signed, ready to jump into any nook or corner they could find. On this account women and children were afraid to leave the carriages, lest they should lose their places, even for the calls of nature. The air, therefore, in some of the closed waggons, was beyond conception and probably was the

cause of much of the mortality that occurred and the sickness now existing. Nearly every disease was represented from small-pox downwards.

I received from M. Spagnoletti, one of the railway officials (who was most obliging and did everything in his power to assist me), the following list of trains which arrived in the station during my sojourn at Tchorlu, and the number of waggons they were composed of. As some of the vans were small and not crowded to the same extent, is under rather than over their number, making a total of 31 trains, 1,093 waggons, and 54,650 people who arrived in Tchorlu Station between the 12th and 24th January.

Date.	Trains.	Waggons.
12..	2	97
13..	0	206
14..	3	113
15..	2	76
16..	..	..
17..	1	49
18..	2	96
19..	2	81
20..	2	69
21..	5	163
22..	3	67
23..	2	30
24..	1	46
Totals	31	1,093

54,650 people = 50 people in each waggon.

At this place, on account of the gradual ascent to Constantinople, the trains were broken up and sent on much shorter, additional engines and carriages being in waiting for the refugees who had arrived from the neighbourhood. At night the cold was intense, and I heard that over 2,000 sleepers and a considerable amount of coal had been consumed. The scene was one never to be forgotten; not only inside the station, but all around, the country was covered with fires. Close to the station there is a large plateau, where the refugees going by road, with arabas and cattle, formed their little encampments, breaking up and burning the arabas left by those who had been fortunate enough to find places in the train, and who had either sold their poor brutes for a few piastres or unyoked them and let them go. I need not add these last very shortly formed a portion of a Circassian drove. During the day, from morning till night, one continued line of arabas, ponies, donkeys, and beasts flowed towards the village, *en route* for Rodosto and other places on the coast. Many complained of having been robbed by the Circassians, and said their villages had been looted and burnt by them. I asked some why they were making this extraordinary exodus. They generally replied "from fear," but an old Turkish friend of mine from Tatar-Bazardjik, who I found wending his weary way down with the rest, told me "A Turk could not remain in his own country when it was in the hands of and under the rule of the Giaour."

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER F. BLUNT.

No. 613.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 171.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 4, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the last despatch that Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert was able to send me before Philippopolis was occupied by the Russians. It was brought by a private hand, and only reached me yesterday. In a letter written subsequently Mr. Calvert states that the bazaars were burnt and that a great part of the town had been pillaged and was on fire.

Mr. Calvert seems to have acted properly, and I shall send him an approval of his conduct as soon as I have an opportunity of communicating with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 613.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Philippopôli, January 15, 1878.

Sir,

HAVING been instructed by Her Majesty's Consul at Adrianople to report directly to your Excellency during his absence from that town, I have the honour to inform you that I yesterday sent by the railway telegraph wire, a telegram to your Excellency regarding the condition of affairs here.

Subsequently to the despatch of this telegram Suleiman Pasha, the Commander-in-chief, sent for my three colleagues and myself and stated to us that as it had been decided to oppose the entrance of the enemy into the town, he could no longer be responsible for the safety of the inhabitants.

The inhabitants are, however, utterly incapable of leaving, having no means of conveyance left. This Vice-Consulate is filled with weeping women and children, who are in dread of the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks, and regard this as their last and only refuge.

Notwithstanding your Excellency's instructions, therefore, to quit the town in case of an investment and resistance, I have deemed it my duty under the circumstances to remain here, the more particularly as my colleagues have decided on a similar course, and I humbly venture to hope that your Excellency will not disapprove of my decision.

Several attempts have already been made by the irregulars to set fire to the town, and a considerable number of buildings have been burnt in consequence. I have been on the spot at nearly all these fires, and have done my utmost to assist in putting them out.

My only cavass having secretly fled two days ago, I have obtained from the Mushir a body guard of six soldiers, and I have used these men in the work of preserving the town from fires.

The military authorities here, Safvet, Ali Haidar, and Rifaat Pashas, have behaved with great energy and decision under these rather trying circumstances, and have had a number of Circassians, Bashi-Bazouks, and other irregulars shot for acts of pillage.

The Russian outposts are at this moment engaged with the Turkish skirmishers at about two hours distance from the town. It is impossible to say what resistance will be made here, but probably it will not be great.

The Russians are approaching on two sides, the north and the west, and their shells from the latter quarter are already landing close to the railway station.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. CALVERT.

P.S.—As I close this despatch the battery on the Nebet Tepe Hill is firing occasional shots at the Russian outposts, which are, however, invisible from this house. The hill in question is partly covered with houses, a few of which have been demolished to construct the battery. The portion of the town lying at the foot of this hill, between it and the Maritza, have just been set in flames, probably by the authorities to prevent the houses affording shelter for the enemy should they wish to assault by that slope. The bridge over the river has also been burnt this afternoon; the konak was burnt last night, and the military storehouses at the railway station are now on fire.

F. C.

No. 614.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 172.)

Constantinople, February 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Consul Reade and Vice-Consul Brophy, reporting on the state of affairs in the neighbourhood of Varna and Bourgas. Her Majesty's ship "Torch" left Constantinople this morning at my request to visit those ports.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 614.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, January 31, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a despatch I have received from Vice-Consul Dalziel, in which he asks me to forward to your Excellency a request for, if possible, one of Her Majesty's ships.

I was yesterday informed that already upwards of 8,000 refugees have come to Varna, a good many of whom I saw myself on their arrival at the railway station, and who were in a most pitiable condition. Some, I hear, have been found dead on the way, either from having been crushed to death or from starvation or illness, and I have been told that a number were suffering from small-pox and typhoid fever.

Dr. Joly, of the Red Crescent Society, very kindly undertook to establish a soup kitchen at the station, and he told me yesterday that he had already given nearly 2,000 rations of soup to refugees who appeared to be dying from hunger. We are establishing another in town, as many are coming in by land. So difficult is it to find quarters for the refugees that even Vice-Consul Dalziel has about a dozen in his house. The mosques, schools, and private houses are all full.

The deplorable events that have occurred between this and Bourgas, and to which Vice-Consul Dalziel alludes, have been confirmed, and we still hear that the country in that quarter is in a frightful condition.

I am told by some of Prince Hassan's staff that the Russians are within a few hours of this, but nearer the railway line in the vicinity of the stations of Pravady and Guebedji, and as it is said they may be here at any moment, your Excellency may imagine the consequent state of alarm that exists here.

In short, it is difficult to describe the great confusion that reigns here at the present moment, and also the apparent utter helplessness of the authorities, which makes matters much worse.

From what we hear from Bourgas it appears out of the question to expect the "Torch" to quit that place, but if your Excellency could allow one of Her Majesty's ships to come up here, her presence would certainly inspire much confidence amongst the panic-stricken here, and it is impossible to foresee what else may occur to render her assistance of great import.

The weather at present is calm and fine, and should any heavy sea come on here there is very good anchorage under the monastery point close above this place.

I have, &c,

(Signed) R. READE.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have been informed by some Englishmen who were present and who were robbed of all they possessed, that a Russian body of Cossacks, accompanied by a number of armed Bulgarians, this morning at daylight appeared at Guebedji station, an hour from this by rail, blew up the rails, destroyed the carriage axles, plundered everybody at and near the station with great violence, then withdrew to a neighbouring height, having with them the station-master, the telegraph apparatus, and all the booty they had seized.

The people from that direction are all coming here by road.

R. R.

Inclosure 2 in No. 614.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Consul R. Reade.

Varna, January 28, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in view of the very disturbed state of the country hereabouts, the utter helplessness of the authorities, and the events which are reported at Bourgas and elsewhere, I think it of the utmost importance that one of Her Majesty's vessels should be stationed here.

I presume it is quite out of the question to expect the "Torch," as I hear there is more than enough work for her at Bourgas; therefore I think it would be advisable, if you agree with me, that a request be made for some other vessel.

I am informed that immense numbers of refugees are on their way to this place from all directions, and I think it will be impossible and unadvisable for the authorities to

shelter them here; so that they will continue to ship them off to Constantinople as steamers come in.

I would beg to suggest that, if it is possible to find at Constantinople some steamers disengaged, it would be a very good thing if they could be sent to supplement the efforts of the Turkish Government, and so prevent the occurrence of such deplorable events as we here have happened elsewhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 614.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, February* 1, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have received a letter written by my brother, Mr. Alfred Brophy, from on board a steamer in Bourgas Bay, on the 27th instant. He tells me that the Kaïmakam and the soldiers quartered there (about 350) left the town that morning, a report having been spread that the Russians were advancing from Karnabad upon Bourgas; this report was, however, supposed to have been set about by Circassians, in order, by getting rid of the troops, to have the country more completely at their mercy; Bourgas itself had been completely plundered.

My brother had not yet been able to obtain authentic information upon what had happened in the neighbourhood of Bourgas, but according to report six or seven Bulgarians were killed at Alanaskeui (a village three-quarters of a mile from Bourgas), several girls outraged, and others carried off by Circassians, of whom a certain Topal Natchko, of Karnabad, is said to have been the leader.

At Roum Jenikeui, my brother supposes forty to fifty peasants to have been killed by Circassians and Albanians, some of the attacking party having also been shot by those of the villagers who defended themselves. In Bourgas, two persons are said to have been killed, but my brother had not seen the corpses.

From other and thoroughly trustworthy sources, I learn that the hammals (porters) of Bourgas, all of them Asiatic Mussulmans, when making their way by land to Constantinople, were met and attacked by Russian cavalry near Kirk Kilissi; two of them, Kurd Hassan, of Courou Tchaïl, in the Caza of Erzinghien, and Tatar Oglou Ahmet, of Divuk, in the Province of Sivas, were seen to be cut down by Cossacks, and the few hammals who have reached Constantinople believe that many more of their number were murdered in the same manner. None of these unfortunate fugitives were armed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 615.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 173.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 5, 1878.

I HAVE been informed by Her Majesty's Consul-General that an English steamship has just arrived from Rodosto, which was occupied on the 2nd instant by Prince Oldenburgh, with about 800 Uhlans, while 3,000 artillery were expected to arrive on the 4th.

The Russian Consul has been appointed Governor with a Christian municipality, and the town is perfectly quiet.

The Prince appeared to be unaware at first of any armistice having been concluded, but subsequently its signature was publicly announced.

Two Circassians, who were found plundering, were shot, and no letters were allowed to pass out of the town.

Mr. Dussi, the British Vice-Consul, informs me that an express, consisting of four men, has been sent to Keshan in consequence of a rumour that British troops had disembarked at Gallipoli.

The steamer which brought this intelligence was crowded with 300 Turkish refugees, most of them in a deplorable condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 616.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 175.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 5, 1878.

IN my despatch No. 130 of the 28th ultimo I ventured to submit to your Lordship some of the objections which, it appeared to me, might be raised to the bases of peace forced by Russia upon Turkey. In pointing out the probable results of the creation of a great Bulgarian vassal Principality, which must inevitably, sooner or later, become either an independent State or be virtually annexed to Russia, I omitted to call your Lordship's attention to a consideration which is, I think, of no little importance as regards the interests of England.

The relations of this new Slav State to Russia must be, under any circumstances, such that it would be found ready at any time, like Servia and Roumania, to do her bidding. If Russia wished hereafter to march an army upon Constantinople through the Bulgarian territories, she would have no difficulty in doing so.

When Turkey is deprived of the lines of defence of the Danube and the Balkans, as she is to be deprived by the Russian terms of peace, the road to her capital would be open. There would be nothing to protect it in the small adjoining territory left to the Sultan, except the fortified line of Buyuk-Tchekmedjé.

But in the event of Russia having another quarrel with Turkey, or wishing to pursue still further her ambitious designs in the East, she would no longer find it necessary to send her armies into what remained of Turkey in Europe. She could leave her Bulgarian and other Slav dependents and auxiliaries to attack Constantinople, and she could direct her vast military power upon the Turkish dominions in Asia, or upon any other part of that Continent which she may think fit to invade and annex. So long, in fact, as she has nothing to fear on her European frontiers she will be able to use her whole strength in prosecuting her conquests in the East.

It seems to me that this is a danger that renders the proposed formation of the greater part of the Balkan Peninsula into a Slav State, which cannot but be dependent upon Russia, and which she can use against Constantinople whenever she thinks fit to do so, of serious consequence to British interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 617.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 176.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 5, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a report, with its inclosures, drawn up by the British, French, Austrian, and Greek Consuls at Adrianople, containing a narrative of events at that city from the departure of the Turks to the entry of the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 617.

Rapport contenant un résumé succinct des événements qui se sont produits à Andrinople depuis le $\frac{19}{31}$ *jusqu'à ce jour, adressé aux six Ambassades d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Allemagne, de France, de Grande Bretagne, et de Grèce, par les Soussignés.*

A LA suite de l'évacuation d'Andrinople par la garnison Ottomane les Consuls, avec l'assistance des soldats réguliers qui avaient été mis à leur disposition, sont parvenus à empêcher les bandes de Bachi-Bazouks et de Circassiens de pénétrer dans la ville, et en même temps à réprimer diverses tentatives de pillage faites par des gens malintentionnés de la population non-Musulmane. Cette situation critique pendant laquelle Fasso Effendi, Gouverneur provisoire, a seul prêté un concours efficace au Corps Consulaire, a duré jusqu'au $\frac{27}{10}$, jour où le Général Skobeloff est entré effectivement à Andrinople. Il est vrai que le $\frac{20}{8}$ le Général Stroukoff, commandant l'avant-garde de la cavalerie du Général Skobeloff, avait déjà occupé le faubourg d'Ilderim, mais comme le constatent d'ailleurs les procès-verbaux ci-annexés, ce Général avait prié le Corps Consulaire de continuer de

veiller, de concert avec une commission de notables formé par lui, au maintien de l'ordre dans la ville. Les Consuls d'Autriche, de Grèce, d'Angleterre et de France ont cru devoir faire au Général Stroukoff une visite officieuse pour tacher d'élucider certains points et notamment celui qui concerne la position des soldats laissés par l'autorité militaire pour protéger la colonie étrangère.

Aujourd'hui 23 Janvier, tout le Corps Consulaire s'est rendu auprès du Général Skobeloff, dont l'accueil a été des plus courtois, et qui a exprimé son désir de faciliter à chacun de ses membres l'accomplissement de la tâche qui lui est confiée, ajoutant qu'il comptait, de son côté, sur notre concours pour prévenir des désordres et des complications. Quant à la question de nos soldats Turcs il nous promit de la soumettre par le télégraphe à Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc.

Les renseignements qui sont parvenus à notre connaissance sur les événements militaires sont assez incomplets, pour le moment, et se reduisent à des avantages remportés par le Général Stroukoff à Tirnova, Seimenly et Hermanly. Nous avons appris, d'autre part, que Suleiman Pacha, battu à Haskeui, par Gourko, est en pleine déroute vers Gonnurdjina et Demotika. Les troupes qui occupent actuellement Andrinople peuvent s'élever à 10,000 hommes environ (cavalerie et infanterie), mais les renforts ne cessent d'arriver et nous aurons bientôt les Généraux Gourko, Radetsky, et le Grand Duc Nicolas avec des forces considérables. Le corps du Général Skobeloff est arrivé de Shipka et de Kysanlik. Le Grand Duc Nicolas est actuellement à Eski-Zaghra.

Jusqu'à présent on n'a établi ici ni service administratif ni service judiciaire; l'autorité militaire Russe s'est bornée à former une commission de notables chargée de veiller à la tranquillité publique.

Ci-joint cinq pièces (trois procès-verbaux, un lettre, et un télégramme adressé par nous à nos Ministères respectifs).

Les soussignés ont l'honneur de prier son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Autriche-Hongrie de communiquer la présente pièce avec ses cinq annexes à leurs chefs de Mission respectifs le plustôt possible, et de vouloir bien leur faire donner avis de sa réception et ont l'honneur, &c.

(Signé) Austrian, French, Greek, and English Consuls.

Inclosure 2 in No. 617.

Procès-Verbal dressé dans le Konak du Vali d'Andrinople Jeudi, le 17 Janvier, 1878, en présence des Représentants Consulaires ci-soussignés :—

LE Vali ayant communiqué aux soussignés que suivant les ordres arrivés de Constantinople l'autorité Ottomane n'a pas l'intention de défendre la ville et qu'elle se retirera en laissant aux notables des diverses communautés le soin de se constituer en Conseil Municipal et de veiller à la sécurité publique, avec l'assistance d'un petit nombre de troupes spécialement détaché à cet effet, le Corps Consulaire a pris la décision d'en informer par télégramme leurs Ambassades et Légations à Constantinople, afin d'obtenir, avant tout, des trains pour que leurs nationaux puissent partir pour Constantinople, et d'en faire part aussi à leurs administrés et protégés; ils se sont décidés, en outre, de prier son Excellence le Vali de renvoyer d'ici avant son départ tous les Circassiens et troupes irrégulières, puis de désigner quelques soldats à chaque Consulat pour veiller sous les ordres de celui-ci sur la sécurité des nationaux qui ne seraient pas partis, et d'informer enfin le futur Conseil Municipal que le Corps Consulaire se réserve de prendre, en cas de besoin, pour la sécurité de ses nationaux, telles mesures qu'il jugera à propos.

Après la conversation eue à cet égard avec leurs Excellences le Vali Djemel Pacha et le Commandant Militaire Ahmed Eyub Pacha, les soussignés ont expédié à leurs Ambassades et Légations le télégramme suivant :—

"Vali informe Consuls appelés chez lui que l'autorité n'a pas l'intention de défendre Andrinople et qu'elle se retirera, en laissant aux notables des communautés le soin de se constituer en Conseil Municipal et de veiller à la sécurité publique, avec l'assistance d'un petit nombre de troupes spécialement détaché à cet effet. Cette mesure était peut-être insuffisante; prions demander à direction chemin-de-fer, pour départ urgent de nos nationaux, trains pour Constantinople qu'on ne peut obtenir ici. Sur notre prière, le Vali télégraphie à la Porte pour que le Commandant Militaire soit autorisé à mettre quelques soldats à la disposition de chaque Consulat. Vu les métaits commis aux environs par les Circassiens et les irréguliers avons déjà adressé à l'autorité requête à l'effet d'éloigner, avant le départ de la garnison, les irréguliers qui se trouvent déjà dans la ville. Prière répondre. Même dépêche adressée par mes collègues."

(Signé) SAX, *Consul d'Autriche-Hongrie.*
J. E. BLUNT, *Consul Britannique.*
N. GHENNADIS, *Consul de Grèce.*
VERNAZZA, *Agent Consulaire d'Italie.*
M. BADETTI, *Consul de Belgique.*
B. BADETTI, *Vice-Consul Danois.*
M. E. FLESCH, *Consul de France.*
A. VERNAZZA, *Vice-Consul d'Espagne.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 617.

Procès-Verbal fait à Andrinople, le 20 Janvier, 1878.

LES Consuls soussignés étant réunis dans le Palais du Gouvernement à Andrinople, Fasso Effendi, qui était laissé par l'autorité Ottomane comme Gouverneur provisoire de la ville, est revenu du camp Russe, du faubourg Idiriu, avec quelques représentants de la ville, lesquels ont raconté aux soussignés que le Général Strukoff lui aurait dit, qu'il ne le reconnaît pas comme Gouverneur, qu'il ordonne le désarmement de tous les habitants sous peine très grave, et qu'il ne fera pas encore avec ses troupes son entrée dans la ville.

Vu ce récit incomplet, les soussignés se trouvèrent dans une grande incertitude sur le mode de maintenir la sécurité dans la ville, pendant cette époque de transition jusqu'à l'occupation de la ville même par la Commandant Russe; et considérant que le désarmement de tous les vagabonds, qui se sont emparés de fusils et commettaient déjà quelques actes de violence, est impossible dans ce moment, faute d'une force disciplinée suffisante; considérant ensuite que le désarmement des 70 soldats Ottomans laissés aux Consulats pour leur sécurité et la défense de leurs nationaux ne serait pas opportun dans ces circonstances dangereuses, et qu'en vue de l'ordre de désarmement général donné par le Commandant des troupes Russes, ces soldats courent le danger d'être arrêtés à l'entrée des troupes Russes, a délégué M. Sax, Consul d'Autriche-Hongrie, gérant le Vice-Consulat d'Allemagne, et chargé de la protection des sujets Russes, à l'effet de se rendre avec les susdit Fasso Effendi et l'Archevêque Grec, chez M. le Général Strukoff, pour lui représenter les considérations ci-dessus énoncées. M. Sax ayant tenu à savoir s'il devait accomplir cette mission même dans le cas où l'Archevêque Grec refuserait de se joindre à cette demande, ses collègues l'ont prié de se rendre néanmoins avec Fasso Effendi, ou même seul au besoin, chez le Commandant Russe, dans le but sus-indiqué, et leur communiquer sa réponse.

En foi de quoi nous avons signé le présent pour servir et valoir ce que de raison.

(Signé) N. GHENNADIS, *Consul de Grèce.*
M. E. FLESCH, *Consul de France.*
J. E. BLUNT, *Consul d'Angleterre.*

Inclosure 4 in No. 617.

Procès-Verbal dressé le 21 Janvier, 1878, à Andrinople.

LES Consuls soussignés s'étant rassemblés vers le soir dans le Consulat de Sa Majesté Britannique pour apprendre la réponse que leur délégué portera de la part du Commandant de l'avant garde Russe, M. Sax, Consul d'Autriche-Hongrie, est venu faire la communication suivante :—

"Je me suis rendu d'abord avec Fasso Effendi chez le Métropolite Grec pour l'inviter à se joindre à ma mission. Monseigneur l'Archevêque m'a répondu qu'il ne pourrait pas m'accompagner à présent, parce qu'il a reçu du Général Strukoff l'ordre de former une Commission de notables de la ville qu'il va réunir immédiatement pour les présenter au Général, où il espérait de me trouver encore quand il s'y rendra avec ces commissaires.

"Sur cela je partis, suivant votre désir, avec M. Fasso seul, pour Yildirim, où on m'introduit immédiatement chez M. le Général Strukoff. Celui-ci me reçut courtoisement, et après les premières paroles de présentation il me dit : 'Je vous reçois avec plaisir, M. le Consul, vous avez un titre officiel; mais ce Monsieur qui vous accompagne (Fasso

Effendi) est prié de sortir, car je ne puis pas admettre ici une personne qui se présentait comme Gouverneur nommé par le Sultan.'

" Après le départ de Fasso Effendi j'ai exposé au Général la situation de la ville, nos craintes pour la sécurité publique et pour le sort des soldats Turcs qui nous avaient été laissés pour la protection des Consulats et de nos nationaux. Le Général me dit à peu près: 'Quoique je ne puisse pas admettre dans cette ville des soldats Turcs armés, je les reconnaîtrai et je les respecterai comme police; et je vous prie de continuer vos efforts pour la sécurité de la population;—je ne peux pas occuper la ville avant l'arrivée du Général Skobeloff, et je suis venu pour faire la guerre, non pas pour veiller à la sécurité; mais j'ai purgé les environs des Bachi-Bozouks qui auraient pu être dangereux pour cette ville, et du reste, si vous m'avertissez dans la nuit d'un grand danger, j'y enverrai tout de suite une centaine de cavaliers, et si vous me consignerez des malfaiteurs je les ferai mettre en pièces. Je vous prie d'accorder votre assistance et vos conseils à la Commission qui va être formée des notables Andrinopolitains pour veiller sur la bonne conduite des diverses nations de la ville, chacun d'eux étant responsable pour ses coreligionnaires.'

" Après l'arrivée de l'Archevêque Grec et de l'Evêque Arménien avec les notables nouvellement élus, le Général leur dit en ma présence: ' Agissez toujours d'accord avec MM. les Consuls et suivez leurs conseils.'

" Quant à Fasso Effendi, le Général me dit qu'il ne s'oppose point à ce que celui-ci fasse parti de la Commission des Notables, si la population a confiance en lui, mais seulement dans sa qualité de Grec. Sur l'assertion réitérée du Général qu'il respectera toujours le Corps Consulaire, je me suis retiré en le remerciant de ses bonnes dispositions."

Les Consuls soussignés se sont déclarés satisfaits de cette communication. Ils décidèrent de donner à leurs soldats Turcs des écharpes et le plus tôt possible aussi des inscriptions pour les faire distinguer comme police du Corps Consulaire, et de faire cette nuit encore la ronde dans la ville à la tête de nos soldats.

(Signé) SAX, *Consul d'Autriche-Hongrie.*
N. E. GHENNADIS, *Consul de Grèce.*
J. E. BLUNT, *Consul d'Angleterre.*
M. E. FLESCH, *Consul de France.*

Inclosure 5 in No. 617.

Prière à Son Excellence le Général Strukoff de vouloir bien faire expédier la dépêche télégraphique suivante aux Ministères des Affaires Etrangères à Paris, Vienne, Athènes, et Londres.

Dépêche.

Andrinople, le $\frac{9}{21}$ *Janvier*, 1878.

" DEPUIS départ des autorités civiles et militaires Ottomanes Vendredi Corps Consulaire employant au maintien de l'ordre soixante-dix soldats réguliers mis à sa disposition par Porte met en mesure gouvernement provisoire de veiller à sécurité publique. Tentatives de pillages réprimées. Hier Général Strukoff, commandant avant-garde du Général Skobeloff, occupe faubourg Ildirim, visite, à la suite renseignements fournis par délégué Consulaire, la nuit, la ville, avec quelques cavaliers, rencontre patrouilles dirigés par Consuls Anglais, Autrichien, Français, et Grecs, et adresse à nos soldats Turcs éloges et encouragement.

Aujourd'hui, pendant notre visite, nous dit avoir battu armée Turque à Tirnova Scimenly, avoir constaté massacres commis par irréguliers dont il a purgé la contrée, et s'être immédiatement dirigé sur Andrinople pour empêcher incendie. Attend Général Skobeloff pour occuper la ville. Nous remercie et prie de continuer d'assister et conseiller Commission des Représentants des communautés formée suivant ses instructions, et nous autorise courtoisement à télégraphier viâ Kysanlik. Même dépêche expédiée par mes collègues.

(Signé) GHENNADIS.
SAX.
FLESCH.
BLUNT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 617.

The Consular Body at Adrianople to General Skobeloff.

M. le Général Commandant-en-chef,

VOTRE Excellence vient de nous faire l'honneur de nous envoyer une garde de vos soldats pour la protection de nos Consulats, en demandant en même temps de lui envoyer les soldats Ottomans qui nous étaient confiés, sur notre demande, appuyée par nos Ambassades à Constantinople, comme police pour notre sécurité et la protection de nos nationaux pendant l'époque d'anarchie depuis le départ des Ottomans jusqu'à l'arrivée des troupes Russes.

Pour obtenir ces soldats Ottomans nous nous sommes engagés, tant vis-à-vis d'eux mêmes que vis-à-vis du Gouvernement Ottoman, qui nous les a donnés, de les garder sous notre protection Consulaire, et de faire les démarches nécessaires afin qu'ils ne soient pas considérés comme prisonniers de guerre.

A présent il est vrai que nous n'en aurons plus besoin, d'autant moins que votre Excellence a déjà pris des mesures pour notre sécurité, mais nous prions votre Excellence de nous épargner la pénible éventualité de manquer à notre parole vis-à-vis de ces soldats Turcs, qui ont fait très-bien leur devoir pendant tout ce temps, même dans l'intérêt de la sécurité générale, et qui ont été loués et encouragés par M. le Général Stroukoff lui-même. Par conséquent nous avons l'honneur de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien nous donner une réponse qui nous permette de connaître ses intentions à ce sujet, notre désir étant de mettre ces soldats en mesure de regagner l'armée Ottomane à la première occasion et de les garder jusque-là sous notre protection.

(Signé) SAX, *Consul d'Autriche-Hongrie.*
FLESCH, *Consul de France.*
GENNADIUS, *Consul de Grèce.*
J. E. BLUNT, *Consul d'Angleterre.*

No. 618.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 177.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 5, 1878.

I RECEIVED notice this morning from the Director-General of the Telegraphs, that all the direct telegraphic lines with Europe, and that through Egypt, which has been the only one working for some days past, were interrupted, and that the only means of communicating with England was by Fiio and Bombay. I was consequently obliged to avail myself of this line to inform your Lordship of the important events taking place here.

I had warned your Lordship in my telegram No. 93 of the 21st ultimo, that it was not impossible that our communications with Europe might be cut off. It is exceedingly inconvenient that such should be the case at a critical moment like the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 619.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 178.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 5, 1878.

THE Porte, relying implicitly upon the pledge given by the Russian Government to your Lordship, and communicated by me officially, in pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, to the Turkish Government, that the Russian forces would not attack the Gallipoli Peninsula if Turkish troops were not concentrated there, has, I am informed, determined to remove the greater part of its force from thence in order to employ it in the measures that it contemplates taking against Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 620.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 179.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 5, 1878.*

I INCLOSE a copy of a telegram received to-day from the Commander of the Turkish troops at Silivria by the Minister of War, and of a telegram from the Porte to Server Pasha. They were sent to me by the Prime Minister, with a request that I would communicate them to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador. The Porte expresses the greatest alarm at the rapid approach of the Russians to the lines of Bouyouk Tchekmedjé and of Boulaïr. They cannot understand it, and wished to have my opinion, which I could not give them.

They are equally at a loss to account for the fact that although the bases of peace and the Convention for the armistice were signed on the 31st ultimo, they have not yet received the Protocol containing them, nor any information on the subject. They are even unacquainted with the terms of the armistice.

Said Pasha called upon me this afternoon, after I had received the inclosed telegrams from the Porte, and informed me that intelligence had just been received that the Russians had advanced to Tchataldja, almost within cannon shot of the Bouyouk-Tchekmedjé lines, and that they had about 100 guns at Silivria, which, I presume, must be a mistake. He said that the greatest anxiety prevailed at the Porte in consequence of the Russian approach to Constantinople, as the consequence of it might be a panic in the city, which, considering the number of fugitives in the city, might lead to serious calamities. It was feared that there was some treachery, and that the Plenipotentiaries were prevented from communicating with the Ministers, whilst the Russians, in violation of their solemn engagement, were preparing to attack the capital.

The advance of the Russians to Tchataldja and Shakirkeui, may possibly be explained by the terms of the armistice, of which, as I have stated, the Porte has been left in ignorance.

No serious and prolonged resistance could be made, under present circumstances, to an attack of the Russians on the Bouyouk Tchekmedjé lines.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 620.

The Turkish Commander at Silivria to Reouf Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Silivria, le 4 Février*, 1878.

EN présence de l'insistance du Général Strogoff, le Commandant du corps de Silivri s'est vu obligé de réunir ses troupes à l'extrémité de la ville et, s'étant placé au bureau télégraphique, d'attendre les instructions ultérieures de la Sublime Porte. Il n'a pas manqué de faire des représentations au Général Russe, en se rendant personnellement auprès de lui; il est allé même jusqu'à lui proposer une occupation collective de la ville. Mais le Général Russe s'est refusé d'entrer en aucune espèce d'arrangement, et a rejeté même la protestation que le Commandant Ottoman a voulu lui remettre (en se basant sur la conclusion de l'armistice).

Ayant compris que la prolongation du séjour des troupes Ottomanes à Silivri pourrait donner lieu à de graves inconvénients, le Commandant Ottoman donna ordre à ses troupes de se retirer, et dans la nuit, il occupa le village de Pagodos, se proposant de se rendre le lendemain (aujourd'hui) à Hadém-Keui. Entr'autre, le Général Strogoff a déclaré que d'après la décision arrêtée il devait absolument occuper aujourd'hui (Mardi) Tchataldja.

Inclosure 2 in No. 620.

Substance of Porte's Telegram to Server Pasha.

Le 5 Février, 1878.

ARMISTICE étant applicable à la Serbie et au Monténégro nous avons appris que des forces Russes sont entré hier soir à Silistria, tout en se disposant de marcher aussi sur Tchataldja, et que des Serbes, ayant détruit Manga, marchent sur Ciskule.

Veuillez signaler d'urgence cet état de choses à Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc et le prier de vouloir bien y mettre une terme.

No. 621.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 180.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 6, 1878.*

NOTWITHSTANDING the signature of the armistice on the 31st ultimo, the Russian Government are still continuing their military operations, and are pushing forward their forces.

On the 1st instant they occupied Rasgrad and Djuma; on the 2nd Rodosto. They have since entered Dédéagatch, the terminus of the Adrianopole railway in the Gulf of Enos, where they seized, I am informed, four locomotives and about 150 waggons belonging to the company. They are still advancing along the shores of the Sea of Marmora.

The day before yesterday, as I telegraphed to your Lordship, they occupied Shakeui, a short distance from the lines of Bulaïr or Gallipoli, and they are now within a very short distance of Tchataldja, or the lines of Bouyouk Tchekmedjé.

It may be presumed that their object is to secure at once positions which will enable them at any moment, should the negotiations for peace be interrupted, to renew hostilities with the greatest possible advantage, threatening Constantinople on one side and the Gallipoli peninsula on the other.

But the result of this advance upon the unfortunate Mussulman and other inhabitants of Thrace is truly deplorable. Terrified beyond measure by the reports which reach them of the outrages and massacres committed by the Cossacks and armed Bulgarians upon the inoffensive population—reports which there is too much reason to fear are not unfounded—they leave their homes and villages and pour in a continuous stream towards Constantinople and Gallipoli. An English gentleman who rode into the capital from the direction of Tchorlu two days ago told me that the road was so encumbered with fugitives, chiefly women and children, with their "arabas" or country carts, that he had great difficulty in making his way. The sufferings of these poor creatures, he says, are perfectly heartrending.

Many of them overcome by fatigue, and without food or shelter, were lying down to die in hopeless despair. He gave me a touching description of one such group of women and children round a donkey, which had carried their little food and covering, and which had perished from hunger, leaving them no more means of transport. To add to the misery of these wretched creatures heavy snow has been falling, and the roads are almost impassable from mud.

The streets of Constantinople are encumbered with these fugitives, amongst whom are now many armed Circassians, a source of considerable uneasiness and danger. I am informed that there are above 150,000 in the capital.

The Government does its best to lodge them in public buildings, in private houses, and in the mosques. The day before yesterday I visited St. Sophia. The scene I witnessed there was one never to be forgotten. The pavement of that glorious and unrivalled temple was covered by a mass of human beings, for the most part women and children, crouching together in the utmost squalor and misery. Amongst them were the sick and dying, and even women in labour. The small-pox had begun its ravages. The guardians of the mosque were distributing a little food, and endeavouring to supply lighted braziers to the most suffering, to keep off the biting cold. The Imam informed me that there were at that time above 4,000 persons huddled together on the floor of this vast edifice.

The Government is doing its best to send to Asia the greater number of fugitives as they arrive in Constantinople.

But the evil is not thereby diminished, and the sufferings of these unfortunate creatures is even greater in the towns and villages, where they can expect less relief and help than in the capital. I have received the most touching appeals in their behalf from Broussa, Smyrna, and elsewhere.

Notwithstanding the representations made by your Lordship, the Russian Commanders have not thought fit to issue proclamations to the Mussulman inhabitants reassuring them, and promising them protection for their lives, property, and honour.

The policy of exterminating or driving out the Turkish populations would appear to be pursued to the bitter end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 622.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 182.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 6, 1878.*

I INCLOSE extracts from an interesting private letter from Consul Blunt, giving an account of the entry of the Grand Duke Nicholas into Adrianople, and of the Russian occupation of that city.

Your Lordship will remark the observation of Prince Tzerletieff, that the departure of the greater part of the Mussulman population for Asia will greatly facilitate the Russian work in Bulgaria and Thrace. I have never entertained any doubt as to the intention of the Russians to exterminate or drive out, as far as possible, the Mohammedans from the Turkish provinces that have been overrun by the Russian armies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 622.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Adrianople, January 27, 1878.*

YOUR Excellency will learn from my journal, of which I send you a copy officially to-day, the principal incidents connected with the Russian occupation. The Russians are surprised that the Turks made no stand at Adrianople, and now feel sure that they will effect without opposition their march upon Constantinople.

The Grand Duke Nicholas, followed by a numerous staff, entered the town yesterday afternoon (at 3 P.M.). Of course the streets were crowded, but his reception was not very enthusiastic, although during the whole of the day preceding his arrival Russian agents went about trying to promote public demonstrations in honour of the occasion.

The French, German, Austrian and Greek flags were displayed, together with the Russian flag, on a triumphal arch over the Maritza bridge; but I believe this was done without the knowledge or consent of my colleagues.

The Turkish Delegates are expected here this evening on their way back to Constantinople, not having accepted, it is generally stated, the conditions offered by Russia. What these are I have not been able to learn. Mr. MacGahen, of the "Daily News," the only correspondent with the Russian staff at present, told me that the Russians do not ask for anything that will affect British interests; and that there is a general disposition at the Russian head-quarters not to fall out with England; while, with the same breath, he added, "They only want territory in Asia, the free passage of the Dardanelles, and an independent Bulgaria."

The hotels, eating-houses, and cafés are crowded with Russian officers, who openly say that the war can only be concluded with the occupation of Constantinople. Troops are marching in that direction, and I also hear that cavalry has been sent to Demotica and Ozoun Kiupri.

From all I have seen of the Russian troops in this town, they appear to have suffered from the winter campaign. Their cavalry is in very bad condition, and their infantry looks tired and worn out. Nor are their numbers considerable.

Prince Tzerletieff is here, and he remarked yesterday to my Austrian colleague that "le départ de la plus grande partie de la population Turque pour l'Asie facilitera de beaucoup notre œuvre dans la Bulgarie et la Thrace!"

No. 623.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 183.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to send your Lordship in original, not having the time to copy them, some interesting despatches from Consul Blunt. Your Lordship will perceive that the reports as to the barbarous treatment of the unhappy Turkish population by the Cossacks and Bulgarians are apparently well founded.

The breach of faith committed by the Russians in seizing the locomotives and carriages employed in conveying the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries under a flag of truce is on a par with all their proceedings during this war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 623.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, January 24, 1878.*

HAVING received yesterday a message from M. Schuver, a Dutch subject, and special correspondent of the "Standard," stating that he had been arrested by the Russian military authorities, I put myself in communication with the Austrian Consul, M. Sax, who is charged with the protection of Dutch interests, and who agreed to make jointly with myself a representation on the subject to General Skobeloff, during the visit which the Consular Body was about to pay his Excellency.

The General, in reply to M. Sax and myself, observed that M. Schuver had been arrested by the Commandant for having, in the course of conversation with the latter, held offensive language with reference to the prospects of Russian success in the event of an advance on Constantinople. His Excellency added, however, that he was willing to set M. Schuver at large provided he would promise to abstain from giving offence in future, and not to leave Adrianople without permission.

M. Sax and myself readily undertook to see that these conditions were observed, and M. Schuver was soon afterwards sent to Her Majesty's Consulate, accompanied by one of the General's aides-de-camp.

I should add that M. Schuver assures me that he said nothing that could justify the harsh proceedings of the Russian military authorities towards him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 623.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, January 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Excellency's information, an extract of a journal which I have kept since the retirement of the Ottoman authorities from Adrianople, to the 25th instant inclusive.

I also inclose copies of eight minutes and other documents relative to the state of affairs and the action of the Consular Body in connection with the Russian occupation of this town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 623.

Extract of Journal kept by Consul Blunt.

January 18, 1878.—ORDERS having been received from the Porte last night that Adrianople was not to be defended, the troops were called in from the batteries around, and the artillery hurried off to the railway station. The fugitives, with their bullock-

waggons, from all parts of the country and from the town itself, thronged the streets in even greater numbers than during the last few days. The Vali, Djemil Pasha, left Adrianople at 10 o'clock at night. I accompanied his Excellency to the railway station, whence he started by special train for Constantinople, accompanied by the Mutesharr and the few remaining officials. The measures taken by the Vali, in concurrence with the Consular Body, for the preservation of the public peace after the retirement of the Ottoman authorities, are recorded in the Minute (Inclosure 5) drawn up and signed by all the Consuls last night.

On my return from the railway station, I passed by Karagatch, and brought away Mr. and Miss Schnell (British subjects) to the Consulate, where Mr. Black, of the Ottoman Bank, and his family had taken refuge. I then went round to all the families of foreign subjects residing in the Turkish quarter of the town. The night passed quietly.

January 19.—The town remained quiet; but there were some acts of pillage on the part of Christians. The Turks kept perfectly quiet. In the evening, Fasso Effendi, the President of the Municipal Council, formed on the departure of the Vali, was appointed, by telegraph, Acting Governor, and received orders to form a corps of mixed police. During the night I again made, in company with the French Consul, the round of the Turkish quarter, and of the "Kaleh," the quarter inhabited by the principal Christian families and several of the foreign Consuls. We found everything perfectly quiet.

January 20.—It was announced early this morning that the Russians would occupy the town to-day. At 1 P.M. Major-General Strukoff arrived with an advanced guard of Cossacks. They took up their quarters in the suburb called "Yildirim." A deputation of the Christian inhabitants, with the Greek Archbishop at their head, went to receive the General. Fasso Effendi, the Acting Governor, accompanied the deputation, but the General, on being told who he was, curtly said, "Ici il n'y a plus ni Sultan ni Gouverneur," and refused to communicate with him. Later in the day, the Austrian Consul, M. Sax, undertook to visit the General on the part of the Consular Body, and as their delegate. The particulars of the interview are embodied in the Minute (Inclosure 6) drawn up by M. Sax. During the whole of the night the Consuls, accompanied by their police, patrolled the town. Whilst going the rounds, M. Sax and myself met a Cossack patrol under the command of an officer calling himself a captain. At a later hour the officer, accompanied by his men, called at Her Majesty's Consulate and inquired for me. I was out patrolling. I afterwards learnt that the officer was General Strukoff himself, *incognito*.

January 21.—The Consuls again patrolled the town this morning. We afterwards went with M. Sax to call on the General at Yildirim. On the way we met a party of Turks and Greeks. The former, taking off their turbans, complained to us that the Russian troops were pillaging them. This statement was confirmed by one of the Greeks, who said that he had seen three Cossacks carrying away the property of Turks, on the pretext that it had been taken from Bulgarians. The Turk further stated that he, with his own and several other families, were fugitives from Hasskioï; that all the property they had brought away was their own; and that it was barely sufficient for their most urgent requirements. I thereupon proposed to my colleagues that we should inquire into the matter. They consented, and we followed the Greek into the courtyard of a mosque close by. There we found three Cossacks who were busily engaged in ransacking the waggons and filling the pockets of their greatcoats and trousers with small portable objects. Upon our remonstrating with them in a quiet way, the Cossacks took to their heels, each carrying off a large bundle of articles which he had tied up. It was agreed that the Austrian and Greek Consuls should remain behind after our interview with the General, in order to inform his Excellency privately of this incident.

General Strukoff received us very cordially. He at once addressed us to the following effect:—

"Je suis très heureux de vous voir, Messieurs, car cela me donne l'occasion de vous initier sur la situation. C'est un moment très important, et vos Gouvernements voudraient naturellement savoir ce qui a eu lieu et ce qui se passe. Vous serez à même de les en informer par lettre ou par télégramme que je me chargerai de transmettre à M. Nélidoff, au quartier-général à Kyzanlik, afin d'être expédiés à leurs destinations. Je commande l'avant garde de l'armée du Général Skobeloff, que j'ai laissé à Hasskioï, occupé avec une partie de l'armée de Suléiman Pacha, et j'ai des raisons de croire qu'il y a eu une lutte sérieuse et aussi que les Turcs ont été battus. Quant à moi j'ai avancé sur Tirnova-Seimenly, et j'ai envoyé un escadron pour occuper le pont qui était défendu de l'autre côté par une centaine de troupes régulières et par 100 à 200 autres gens armés. J'ai dû envoyer un deuxième escadron à l'appui du premier, et à la fin le pont est resté à nous. On y avait déjà mis le feu, mais nous l'avons sauvé. Les Turcs ont pris la fuite, laissant six canons entre nos mains. De Tirnova-Seimenly je me suis rendu à Hermanli, où j'ai rencontré beaucoup plus de résistance. La population entière y était armée, mais j'ai fini avec ces gens et je n'ai rien épargné. De là je suis allé à Mustafapacha, où quatre messieurs de la ville sont venus me trouver. De là je suis parti en toute hâte et je suis arrivé ici hier à une heure après midi. J'ai reçu l'archevêque et les autres chefs de communautés; mais je n'ai pas voulu reconnaître, et je ne peux pas reconnaître, un certain monsieur qui s'était présenté en qualité de Gouverneur de la ville. J'ai chargé les chefs de communauté de former une Commission, composée d'un membre de chaque nation, et je leur ai formellement déclaré que c'était eux que je tenais responsable pour la tranquillité de la ville; que si un Arménien ferait quelque chose ce serait le Délégué Arménien qui en souffrirait; si un Grec, ce serait l'Archevêque qui en répondrait, et ainsi de suite. J'ai trouvé ceci le meilleur moyen partout où j'ai été pour maintenir l'ordre, vu que tous le détestent. Le Juif déteste l'Arménien; l'Arménien déteste le Grec; le Grec déteste le Turc et le Bulgare; et le Bulgare déteste tout le monde."

In the course of conversation, General Strukoff alluded to the massacres perpetrated by the Turkish irregulars on their line of retreat, and said that he found the road strewn with dead bodies. He also mentioned that he had found many Turks frozen to death. He expressed his pity, but remarked that it was impossible for him to assist them.

The French and Greek Consuls, with myself, patrolled the town during the night. We found the streets deserted, and everything quiet. We met a party of Russians coming from the railway-station. They inquired the way to the Russian head-quarters. The officer in command of the party announced that General Skobeloff had arrived by train from Hermanli.

January 22.—This morning General Strukoff summoned the Greek Archbishop and other chiefs of communities to go and meet General Skobeloff outside the town.

The Greek Consul informed me that General Strukoff went yesterday to the Ghoyik suburb, where he apprehended two Turks, who were pointed out to him as old offenders.

The Rev. Mr. Rosenberg (Scottish-American missionary) gave notice to Her Majesty's Consulate that he had been informed that the bodies of two Englishmen, who had been murdered, were lying at Karagatch. I sent Mr. E. Calvert and Mr. Schnell (of Karagatch) to make inquiry there. On their return, they reported to me that they had ascertained the alleged fact to be a pure invention.

General Skobeloff entered the town to-day at 1 P.M., and proceeded to the Government konak, accompanied by the chiefs of the communities, and preceded by two battalions of infantry, with a military band. The number of spectators was by no means considerable, and there was a remarkable absence of any kind of demonstration of enthusiasm or joy on the part of whatsoever section of the inhabitants. On arriving at the konak, the General addressed a few words to the deputations, and notified to them that Christians and Turks were to be treated on the same footing and to be protected alike.

My colleagues met at Her Majesty's Consulate and agreed to send their Dragomans to present their compliments to General Skobeloff and ask his Excellency when he could receive them. In the meanwhile three Russian soldiers came to the Consulate, accompanied by a young Bulgarian, who acted as interpreter, and called on the Turkish sentries to go with them to the Russian head-quarters. It was intimated at the same time that the Russian soldiers were to replace the Turks as a Consular guard. A similar message was sent to each of the other Consulates. I allowed the Russian soldiers to remain, but declined to give up the Turks until I should have come to an understanding with my colleagues and with the Russian military authorities as to the disposal of these men. The Consular Body then, at my invitation, drew up a collective note (Inclosure 7) which was presented to General Skobeloff by M. Ronzevalle, the French Dragoman and Chancellier. M. Ronzevalle at the same time inquired at what hour it would be convenient for the General to receive the Consular Body. General Skobeloff, in a very affable manner, said he would be happy to see the Consuls at 11 o'clock to-morrow morning, when he would arrange with them the question of the Turkish soldiers who had been left for the protection of foreign residents.

January 23.—The town was very quiet to-day. The Consular Body, myself with them, called at the appointed hour on General Skobeloff, who gave us a very courteous and friendly reception. The particulars of the interview, as regards the Consular Body generally, are recorded in the Minute of to-day's date (Inclosure 9).

The Austrian Consul, M. Sax, who is charged with the protection of Dutch interests, and myself, spoke to the General on behalf of M. Schuver, a Dutch subject and correspondent of the "Standard," who had been arrested by the military authorities for having held, as alleged, language offensive to Russia. It appears that M. Schuver, who was with

Suleiman Pasha's army, and who arrived here from Philippopolis, in ignorance of the Turkish evacuation, on the same day as the Russians, found himself unable to leave the place. Having met the Commandant the conversation turned upon the military situation, and, according to the Russian account, M. Schuver took occasion to remark that the Russian forces would not find it so easy to capture Constantinople as Adrianople, for they would find British troops there to oppose them. M. Schuver, however, denied that he made use of similar language, or that he said anything to justify the harsh treatment he had received.

General Skobeloff consented to release him on M. Sax and myself undertaking that he would give no occasion for complaint, nor leave Adrianople without permission. Later in the day M. Schuver was brought to Her Majesty's Consulate in charge of a Russian officer, who made him over to me on the part of the General.

January 24.—I visited Karagatch in company with the French, Austrian, and Greek Consuls. An investigation made by us on the spot satisfied us that the public and private stores at the railway station had been plundered by the inhabitants of the village, who had, moreover, fired upon a number of Turkish fugitives, men, women, and children. Père Galabert, an eye-witness, will give the particulars of these occurrences to Mr. Calvert.

M. Sax received a complaint from an Austrian subject to the effect that his house and twenty-four others in the Koum Kaleh quarter of the town had been pillaged by Cossacks. The Christian inhabitants of the Yildirim, Kiretch-Khané, and Gheyik quarters of the town, who are all more or less armed, have also taken to plundering the Turkish houses in those quarters. In the rural districts likewise the Bulgarian and Greek peasants go about in armed bands, sacking the Turkish villages and maltreating the fugitives, whom they overtake and whom they rob of their cattle, clothes, and other belongings. The Consular Body will address a representation to General Skobeloff on the subject.

January 25.—Last night a Turkish public bath, not far from the British Consulate, was broken into by a party of twenty Cossacks, who robbed the money chest and other valuables. Many Turks came to me during the day complaining that Cossacks and Bulgarians were pillaging their houses. I sent the complainants to the provisional Commission of Public Safety appointed by General Strukoff. Mr. Schnell from Karagatch also reports that the Cossacks in that village are robbing the unfortunate Turkish fugitives who have taken refuge there. Mr. Schnell remonstrated with one band of these pillagers, but to no purpose; one Cossack turned upon Mr. Schnell with the remark that "these people should consider themselves lucky if their lives are spared." The Austrian Consul tells me that the Cossacks this morning renewed their visit to the Koumkaleh quarter, and again robbed the house of the Austrian subject there. The Russian military authorities do not seem to take any effective measures to put a stop to the misconduct of their troops or to prevent the Bulgarians from pillaging the Turkish houses, and the "Commission of Public Safety" is helpless before the growing state of anarchy. Should the Russians have to retire from this place, I fear that the atrocities committed at Kyzanlik and other places under like circumstances will be repeated here.

General Gourko and his staff arrived here at 4·30 P.M. and was received with great military honours. Deputations from the different communities went out to meet the General as before. The Grand Duke Nicholas is expected to-morrow with the Turkish Plenipotentiaries. It is currently reported that the negotiations for peace have fallen through, that the British fleet has entered the Straits, and that the Russians are hastening their advance upon Constantinople. All the earth-works around Adrianople have been occupied by Russians troops, and guns have been mounted on them. Provisions are becoming scarce and dear, especially as regards sugar, coffee, tea, candles, soap, and wines and spirits.

Inclosure 4 in No. 623.

Procès-Verbal dressé dans le Konak du Valy à Andrinople, Jeudi, le 17 Janvier, 1878, en présence des Représentants Consulaires.

[See Inclosure 2 in No. 617.]

Inclosure 5 in No. 623.

Procès-Verbal fait à Andrinople le 20 Janvier, 1878.

[See Inclosure 3 in No. 617.]

Inclosure 6 in No. 623.

Procès-Verbal dressé le 21 Janvier, 1878, *à Andrinople.*

[See Inclosure 4 in No. 617.]

Inclosure 7 in No. 623.

Prière à Son Excellence le Général Strukoff de vouloir bien faire expédier la dépêche télégraphique suivante aux Ministères des Affaires Etrangères à Paris, Vienne, Athènes, et Londres.

[See Inclosure 5 in No. 617.]

Inclosure 8 in No. 623.

The Consular Body at Adrianople to General Skobeloff.

[See Inclosure 6 in No. 617.]

Inclosure 9 in No. 623.

Procès-Verbal dressé à Andrinople, le 23 Janvier, 1878.

EN suite de la visite que les Consuls de Grèce, de Grande Bretagne, de France, et d'Autriche-Hongrie, avaient faite le 22 courant au Général Russe M. Strukoff, Commandant l'avant-garde à Yildirim, et pendant laquelle le Général leur renouvela les assurances données le jour précédent au Consul d'Autriche-Hongrie, ce dernier s'est chargé de demander pour ses collègues une entrevue avec le Général Skobeloff, que son Excellence fixa, pour le Corps Consulaire entier, à 11 heures aujourd'hui.

En conséquence tous les Soussignés se sont rendus aujourd'hui chez son Excellence le Général Skobeloff, et après que celui-ci eût exprimé son désir d'aider les Consuls dans leur tâche, et d'être aidé par eux dans la sienne, en lui indiquant surtout des désordres commis éventuellement par ses troupes, ils ont traité avec lui les questions suivantes :—

1. Le sort des soldats Ottomans confiés aux Consulats.

Le Général répondit qu'il allait demander, suivant la lettre qui a été adressée hier par les Consuls, des instructions de Son Altesse le Grand Duc Commandant-en-chef, déclarant de partager notre manière de voir à ce sujet.

2. La position des soldats Russes envoyés aux Consulats, vis-à-vis des différents Consuls.

Le Général déclara que les Consuls ont le droit de leur donner des ordres, et qu'ils ne sont pas obligés de les nourrir s'ils ne le font pas volontairement.

3. La possibilité de signifier des protêts contre le Gouvernement Russe.

Le Général répondit qu'il est prêt à les accepter.

4. La signification de protêts contre des sujets Ottomans.

Le Général répliqua qu'il n'a pas d'instructions à ce sujet.

5. Les dispositions prises pour le règlement des affaires judiciaires.

Le Général fait l'observation qu'il n'est pas autorisé à créer des autorités civiles ou judiciaires, et que de semblables mesures dépendront de Son Altesse le Grand Duc.

6. Si les cavass des Consulats pourront continuer de porter les armes.

Le Général dit, "Oui," et promit de déléguer un officier pour faire une liste des cavass.

7. Si l'ordre de désarmement concerne aussi les étrangers.

Le Général dit, "Non."

8. Si les médecins étrangers au service de l'armée Ottomane seront faits prisonniers s'ils portent le brassard du Croissant Rouge.

Le Général répondit que, "Non."

Après avoir remercié le Général Skobeloff de ses bonnes dispositions, le Corps Consulaire s'est retiré.

En foi de quoi, &c.

(Signé) SAX, *Consul d'Autriche-Hongrie.*
N. GHENNADIS, *Consul de Grèce.*
J. E. BLUNT, *Consul d'Angleterre.*

Inclosure 10 in No. 623.

Memorandum addressed by the Consuls of Austria-Hungary, France, Greece, and England to the Austro-Hungarian Embassy, with the request, as regards the three last, that it be communicated to their respective Embassies and Legations, there being no time for the Consuls to address them separately before the departure of the Messenger.

A LA suite de l'évacuation d'Andrinople par la garnison Ottomane les Consuls, avec l'assistance des soldats réguliers qui avaient été mis à leur disposition, sont parvenu à empêcher les Bachi-Bozouks et les Circassiens de pénétrer dans la ville, et en même temps à réprimer diverses tentatives de pillage faites par des gens malintentionnés appartenant à la population non-Musulmane.

Cette situation critique, pendant laquelle Fasso Effendi a seul prêté un concours efficace au Corps Consulaire, a duré jusqu'au 22, jour où le Général Skobeloff est effectivement entré à Andrinople. Il est vrai que le 20, le Général Strukoff, commandant l'avant garde de la cavalerie du Général Skobeloff, avait déjà occupé le faubourg d'Ildirim, mais, comme le constatent d'ailleurs les procès verbaux ci-annexés, ce Général avait prié le Corps Consulaire de continuer de veiller, de concert avec une Commission de notables formée par lui, au maintien de l'ordre dans la ville. Les Consuls d'Autriche, de Grèce, d'Angleterre et de France ont cru devoir faire au Général Strukoff une visite officieuse pour tacher d'élucider certains points, et notamment celui qui concerne la position des soldats laissés par l'autorité militaire Ottomane pour protéger la colonie étrangère.

Aujourd'hui, 23 Janvier, tout le Corps Consulaire s'est rendu auprès du Général Skobeloff, dont l'accueil a été des plus courtois, et qui a exprimé son désir de faciliter à chacun de ses membres l'accomplissement de la tâche qui lui est confiée, ajoutant qu'il comptait, de son côté, sur notre concours pour prévenir des désordres. Quant à la question de nos soldats Turcs il nous a promis de la soumettre par le télégraphe à Son Altesse Impériale Monseigneur le Grand Duc.

Les renseignements qui sont parvenus à notre connaissance sur les événements militaires sont assez incomplets et se réduisent à des avantages remportés par le Général Strukoff à Tirnova, Sélinenly et à Hermanli. Nous avons appris, d'autre part, que Suleiman Pacha, battu de nouveau à Hasskioï par le Général Gourko, est en pleine déroute vers Gumurdjina et Demotika. Les forces Russes qui occupent actuellement Andrinople peuvent s'élever à 10,000 hommes environ (cavalerie et infanterie), mais des renforts ne cessent d'arriver et nous aurons bientôt ici les Généraux Gourko, Radeski, et le Grand Duc, avec des forces considérables. Le corps du Général Skobeloff arrive de Schipka et de Kyzanlik. Le Grand Duc Nicholas est actuellement à Eski-Zagbra.

Jusqu'à présent on n'y établi ici ni service administratif ni service judiciaire. L'autorité militaire Russe s'est bornée à former une Commission de notables chargée de veiller à la tranquillité publique.

Nous avons, &c.

(Signé) SAX, *Consul d'Autriche-Hongrie.*
M. FLESCH, *Consul de France.*
N. GHENNADIS, *Consul de Grèce.*
J. E. BLUNT, *Consul d'Angleterre.*

Andrinople, le 23 *Janvier*, 1878.

Inclosure 11 in No. 623.

The Consular Body at Adrianople to Server and Namik Pashas.

MM. les Ministres, *Andrinople, le* 25 *Janvier*, 1878.

SUR notre demande, appuyée par nos Ambassades, et grâce à l'intervention de son Excellence Djemil Pacha, la Sublime Porte a bien voulu mettre à notre disposition 72 soldats réguliers pour la protection de nos Consulats et de nos nationaux respectifs après l'évacuation de la ville par la garnison. Nous réclamons en ce moment pour ces militaires, qui ont bravement accompli leur mission, la faculté de retourner librement à Constantinople. Cette question a été soumise par M. le Général Skobeloff à son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc Nicholas. Nous ne doutons pas que la solution ne soit satisfaisante, et pour ce motif nous pensons que vos Excellences seraient disposées à prendre avec elles, dans leur train spécial, ces troupes que nous serions très embarrassés de faire partir d'une autre façon, et que nous croyons devoir recommander vivement à leur obligeance.

Nous prions, &c.

(Signé) FLESCH, *Consul de France.*
J. E. BLUNT, *Consul d'Angleterre.*
SAX, *Consul d'Autriche-Hongrie.*
N. GHENNADIS, *Consul de Grèce.*

Inclosure 12 in No. 623.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, January* 26, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Russian military authorities have taken possession of five locomotive engines and about thirty railway carriages and trucks belonging to the Roumelian Railway Company, and which were specially employed in conveying, under a flag of truce, the Ottoman delegates to the Grand Duke Nicholas. The Russians now use these conveyances for carrying their troops from Hermanli to Adrianople. The rest of the rolling-stock had been removed to Constantinople by order of the Porte on the approach of the Russian forces.

The railway manager has gone through the formality of addressing a protest through the French Consulate against General Skobeloff and the Russian Government for this forcible appropriation of property, whose seizure, under the circumstances, is a clear breach of faith.

On the other hand, it is rumoured that the Russians were prepared for this eventuality, and had brought with them a staff of railway servants. Be this as it may, the possession of this small plant will be of immense service to them in moving their troops forward.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 13 in No. 623.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, January* 26, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have heard from a good source that the foreign Vice-Consuls at Philippopolis, including Mr. F. Calvert, have remained at their posts, and have not suffered in any way from the disorder and pillage which occurred there during the interval between the departure of the Turkish, and the arrival of the Russian troops.

I also learn from the same source that the towns of Sofia, Tatar-Bazardjik, and Philippopolis were in a state of complete anarchy pending their occupation by the Russian forces, the Christians pillaging the Turkish quarters. I hear too that the Russian officers state that they found the road between Philippopolis and Adrianople strewn with the dead bodies of Turkish fugitives, and that children have been frozen to death by hundreds. Many have, it is said, been rescued and taken care of by compassionate Russian officers, who sent the sufferers to Philippopolis.

Fugitives are every day coming into this town from the surrounding villages, and

complain of having been robbed of their cattle and property by Bulgarians and Cossacks on the way.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. F. BLUNT.

No. 624.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 184.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 6, 1878.*

SAFVET PASHA, in a Circular Note dated yesterday, informs me that the carrying of arms in the capital is henceforth prohibited.

This regulation is applicable to the entire civil population, and persons infringing it will be severely punished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 625.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 185.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 6, 1878.*

BY a series of deceits and tricks practised upon Her Majesty's Government and upon the Porte, of which even Byzantine history could scarcely furnish an example, Russia has now succeeded in holding Constantinople and the Dardanelles entirely at her mercy. By delaying, by every manner of device, the signature of the bases of peace and the conclusion of an armistice, and by interrupting as long as possible the communications between the Turkish Plenipotentiaries and their Government, the Grand Duke Nicholas has gained the time he required to march his armies to the very foot of the defences of the capital and of the lines of Bouhir. His troops are now actually within long cannon range of the Buyuk-Tchekmedje position. The Turks, at the same time, cannot defend Constantinople or the Gallipoli peninsula, and the strength of the Russian forces that menace them is daily increasing.

Russia will thus go into the Conference with the immense advantage of being able to threaten at any moment the occupation of the Turkish capital and of the Dardanelles, and neither England nor any other Power can now prevent her carrying out her menace. I would therefore venture to suggest to Her Majesty's Government that it may be time to consider whether some steps should not be taken in view of this contingency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 626.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 186.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a telegram from the Turkish Plenipotentiaries at Adrianople to the Grand Vizier, announcing the signature of the bases of peace and of the armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 626.

Server and Namyk Pashas to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.) *Andrinople, le 31 Janvier, 1878.*

BIEN que nous n'ayons pas encore reçu la réponse de votre Altesse à notre dépêche d'hier nous avons signé ce soir avec Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc le Protocole des bases de paix préalables, l'armistice, et la Convention même de l'armistice. Nous vous enverrons demain par courrier les originaux de ces deux pièces. Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc nous a promis d'envoyer immédiatement à tous Commandants de corps Russes l'ordre de suspendre les hostilités et de télégraphier à Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc Michael la conclusion de l'armistice. Dans le même but nous pensons donc que votre Altesse jugera nécessaire d'envoyer d'urgence des ordres semblables à nos Commandants de corps en Europe et un avis semblable à notre Commandant-en-chef en Asie, conformément aux termes de l'armistice et au désir personnellement exprimé par Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc, qui nous paraît également conforme à nos propres intérêts. Il est nécessaire de faire cesser immédiatement le blocus de la Mer Noire et de rétablir les communications télégraphiques par le cable entre Constantinople et Odessa.

No. 627.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 190.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 6, 1878.*

YESTERDAY the Chamber of Deputies held a sitting with closed doors, at which the new President of Ministers, Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, was present.

His Excellency, in bringing forward his programme of action, stated that his appointment as First Minister was a pledge for the scrupulous and loyal execution of the provisions of the Constitution.

He lamented the necessity which had existed for taking up the declaration of war that Russia had forced upon the country, and the humiliating position in which its disastrous conclusion had placed it.

He felt the great responsibility which attached to his new office, and reminded the Chamber that, notwithstanding the many sacrifices which the Empire had been called upon to make, many still remained to be borne with resignation and fortitude.

He expressed the fullest confidence in the aid and support of the Parliament, which, he said, should be sole arbiter of all his measures.

In reply to an interpellation on both conditions of the armistice and the peace, he said that the official document containing them had not yet been received from the Plenipotentiaries, but would, immediately on its arrival, be communicated to the Chamber.

He states that defensive measures had been taken to repel the invasion of Thessaly by Greek troops, eighteen battalions having been already dispatched, and sixteen being on the point of leaving for the seat of war. Diplomatic relations were not yet broken off with the Hellenic Government, but, owing to the mutilation of his telegrams by the Greek officials, the Turkish Minister at Athens had been unable to communicate regularly with the Porte.

The member for Aleppo and fifteen other Mussulman members then brought forward a motion stating that, in accordance with the oath of allegiance which they had taken, they could not sanction the suppression of the title of Grand Vizier, except by virtue of a vote of the Chamber to that effect.

The motion in question was then referred to a special Committee for examination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 628.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 191. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 6, 1878.*

THE accounts that I have occasionally sent to your Lordship of my interviews with the Sultan must have prepared your Lordship, to a certain extent, for the appointment of Ahmed Vefyk Pasha to the post of President of the Council of Ministers and Prime Minister. His Majesty had frequently said to me that he fully appreciated the remarkable qualities of the Pasha, and intended to employ him, when the suitable moment came, in a high position. I have not yet had an opportunity of seeing his Excellency since his appointment, and have, consequently, not heard from his own lips how it was brought about; but I understand, on good authority, that it was in this wise. A very general feeling of discontent against several of the Ministers,

and especially against those who were believed to be connected with the Palace, had prevailed for some time amongst the Mussulman population. The Chamber of Deputies had virtually censured them in its address in answer to the Sultan's speech. A motion was about to be submitted to the Assembly to invite His Majesty to remove from power men to whose incapacity and misconduct the country attributed the disasters which had befallen it. The feeling was so strong against Mahmoud Damat and the ex-Secretary Said Pasha, that there was little doubt that the motion would be carried.

The Sultan, as I had heard from His Majesty himself, was anxious to get rid of these two Ministers, and of other persons who were supposed to exercise unconstitutional influence in the Palace. Last week, in speaking to a foreign Mohammedan gentleman who had an audience of him, he deplored the misfortunes of his Empire, which he attributed to three persons—Mahmoud Damat, Said, and Suleiman Pashas, to whom he applied the strong epithet of "ma'loun" (the accursed).

On Sunday evening His Majesty sent for Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, and proposed to him to accept the office of Grand Vizier. The Pasha declined to be at the head of a Ministry unless Mahmoud Damat, and what is termed the "Palace Party," were dismissed, and unless the Government of which he was to be the chief was formed in a constitutional manner. He proposed that he should name the Ministers, and submit them to His Majesty for his approval, and that they should be held individually responsible for the management of their respective departments. After a discussion which, I am informed, lasted nearly five hours, the Sultan cordially agreed to Ahmed Vefyk Pasha's conditions. His Majesty further consented, on his Excellency's suggestion, to abolish the office of Grand Vizier, and to appoint instead a Prime Minister, who should be President of the Council.

The change thus made is one of very great importance. The Grand Vizier, as your Lordship is no doubt aware, was a kind of *alter ego* of the Sultan. He had a general and entire control over all the Departments of State. No business of any importance could be concluded without reference to him, and without his approval and consent. The greatest delays consequently ensued in the transaction of all public affairs, and some reform was absolutely required. The abolition of an office which was a relic of ancient despotic rule is a real advance in a Constitutional direction, and has given general satisfaction. It has had the effect of allaying the strong opposition threatened by the Chamber of Deputies, which might have ended in a serious collision between the Parliament and the Government, and even the Sultan.

An excuse has been found to remove Mahmoud Damat Pasha altogether from Constantinople. His health has been severely shaken by more than one attack of paralysis, from which he has only partially recovered. The physicians, who were called to consult upon his case, amongst whom was Dr. Dickson, have recommended a warmer climate, and he will probably go to Egypt. Said Pasha, the Sultan's late Secretary, has no longer a seat in the Cabinet, and has been named to a subordinate post. The most unpopular members of the late Ministry have been sent as Governors to the provinces. It is to be hoped that an end has been thus put to those mischievous influences at the Palace which have done so much towards bringing ruin on the State, and that the Sultan has once for all freed himself from them. He has shown in this case those good qualities, and that earnest desire to act for the good of his country and, to the best of his abilities and knowledge, as a constitutional Monarch, for which, as your Lordship is aware, I have always given His Majesty credit, and which have hitherto been, to a certain extent, neutralized by a natural timidity, and by the exceptional and unfortunate circumstances in which he has been placed.

I have so frequently written about Ahmed Vefyk Pasha that your Lordship must be pretty well acquainted with his character. He has great abilities and excellent qualities, which may enable him to render eminent services to his country in this hour of her need. The task that he has before him is one of almost unparalleled difficulty, and it is to be hoped that he will accomplish it to his own credit and for the good of the Empire.

It has been much remarked that the ceremonies which have hitherto taken place on the appointment of a Grand Vizier were omitted on the occasion of the reading of the Sultan's Firman, naming Ahmed Vefyk Pasha Prime Minister, and that his Excellency went alone to the Palace, and without any show whatever, to present himself to His Majesty after his nomination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 629.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February 15.*)

(No. 192.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 6, 1878.*

I LEARN from a trustworthy source that the Russian General in command of the troops at Chatalja has given Mukhtar Pasha to understand that one of the conditions of the armistice is that the lines of defence from Buyuk Chekmedjé to Derkos should be evacuated, and in consequence the Turkish force which occupied that position with eighty-five battalions of infantry and a considerable force of artillery has been compelled to retire about twelve miles upon a line drawn from Kutchuk Chekmedjé, on the Sea of Marmora, to Ak Bournou, on the Black Sea, so that the line of defence of Constantinople forms about the centre of the neutral zone between the armies.

This will place Constantinople entirely at the mercy of the Russians, for while they are enabled during the armistice to fortify Adrianople, which I understand they are doing, mass a large force at Tchorlu, and consolidate their advance up to the limit of the neutral zone, thus enormously improving their military position for an attack on the capital, the Turkish Army, on the other hand, is driven into a corner, whence it will be altogether unable to offer any resistance to the invader.

It is most extraordinary that the Russians should have made this advance, and occupied territory in the immediate neighbourhood of the capital without having yet allowed the Plenipotentiaries to communicate to the Porte the Convention of Armistice upon which their pretentions are founded. The Turks have been compelled to yield to force. It may be said with some confidence that such a state of things has rarely been seen before.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 630.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February 15.*)

(No. 193. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship an extract from an interesting and important private letter which I have received from Consul Blunt, relative to the proceedings of the Russians in Adrianople and its neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 630.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Adrianople, February 4, 1878.*

YOU will learn from Dr. Kirkpatrick's narrative the cruel treatment he and his colleagues have suffered from the Russian military authorities; and Dr. Armand Leslie, who will deliver this letter to your Excellency, will give you an account of the Russo-Bulgarian atrocities they have witnessed on the way here from Shipka.

The narrative I send your Excellency is interesting, but I must apologize for the form it is in. Dr. Kirkpatrick had no time to put it into shape. The Christian communities in this town are getting disgusted with the Russian military régime, and begin to pine for that of the Turks.

All the houses of the poor Turks have been pillaged by the Cossacks. Many Christian houses have suffered the same fate; on the whole the place has assumed the aspect of a stormed town. As for the thousands of Turkish fugitives, their sufferings are heartrending beyond description.

Many of them between Philibé and this have been massacred, while those who have escaped have been robbed of their money, clothes, and cattle, and are now literally dying of starvation.

Nor do the Russian authorities display any anxiety to redress injuries and protect

the defenceless. Nothing can be worse than their military organization; they have no police, no transport, no commissariat, and no system of requisitioning.

The surrounding villages and farms are being devastated by the Cossacks, no care being taken by the Russian authorities to secure the large stores of provisions they contain.

I doubt if 60,000 troops are here and in the positions between this and Tchorlou. They are in a very bad condition, are not provided with tents, have very little ammunition and few guns, and their cavalry is not fit for much.

Some of the foreign Military Attachés assure me that the state of affairs in the Russian army is such at present, that 30,000 men under an able general could retrieve Suleiman Pasha's losses.

No. 631.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 194.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a despatch addressed to me by Consul Blunt, inclosing extracts from the journal of Dr. Kirkpatrick, showing the cruel and brutal manner in which he and other English doctors sent out from England to attend the sick and wounded Turkish soldiers have been treated by the Russians, in violation of humanity and of the Geneva Convention.

I have seen Dr. Armand Leslie, one of the gentlemen who has affixed his name to Dr. Kirkpatrick's journal. He is suffering very severely from the cruel treatment he has experienced, and is overcome by the shocking scenes that he has witnessed. He describes from personal knowledge the outrages and cruelties committed by the Russians and Bulgarians upon the Mohammedan population and upon the Turkish soldiers. I have requested him to draw up a statement for me of what he has witnessed, which he has promised to do as soon as he is well enough. From all the information that reaches me I cannot doubt that it is the deliberate intention of the Russians to destroy or remove the Mussulman population from the new "Bulgaria," and that this design is carried out with the aid of the Bulgarians in the most inhuman manner.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—Dr. Leslie has just informed me that he will proceed to England to-day in order to bring personally before the Council of the Red Cross Association his treatment and that of his fellow-sufferers by the Russian authorities. A statement from him as to the outrages committed by the Russians and Bulgarians upon the Mussulman population, and to which he can bear personal testimony, would be of importance at this moment.

A. H. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 631.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, February* 4, 1878.

YESTERDAY, late in the evening, I received notice that four British subjects—namely, Dr. Armand Leslie and Dr. Neville, of the National Aid Society; Dr. Kirkpatrick, of the Red Crescent Society; and Dr. Bell, artist of the "Illustrated London News," had been brought into the town as prisoners of war.

Being myself engaged at a Consular meeting at the time, I immediately instructed Mr. Calvert to call on M. de Nelidoff and make inquires respecting those gentlemen and the circumstances under which they had been brought here.

M. de Nelidoff informed Mr. Calvert that the matter would have his best attention, and that he would make inquiry of the Commandant, Colonel Zelulonkine, regarding it; but adding that, as that officer was probably not then at home, he (M. de Nelidoff) doubted whether he would be able to obtain the required particulars before next morning. Shortly after leaving M. de Nelidoff, however, Mr. Calvert chanced to meet Prince Tseretelelf, and, having mentioned the subject to that gentleman, was advised by him to call at once on the Commandant, whom he had just left at his house, and who had been speaking to him about it. The Commander, whom Mr. Calvert found getting into his carriage, at once ordered one of his officers to take him to the quarters which had been assigned to the English gentlemen. He spoke very civilly on the subject, and remarked that, although they were accompanied by a guard for their protection, they were not under any restraint, and that he would be very glad if the British Consul would relieve him of his responsibility by taking charge of them.

After communicating with the gentlemen in question, whom he found treated as prisoners, Mr. Calvert brought word to me of what had passed. I forthwith went to see them, and afterwards (with some difficulty, as it was late) succeeded in tracing the Commandant to the house where he was passing the evening. I sent in my card, and shortly afterwards he came out. Whilst thanking him for the civil manner in which he had received Mr. Calvert's application, I lost no time in calling upon the Commandant to give over to me the four gentlemen. He thereupon said he very much regretted he could not comply with my request, as he had already been reprimanded by his superior officer for having precipitately spoken as to a matter which could only be decided by the higher military authorities. Upon this I expressed my surprise and regret, adding that, according to the Geneva Convention, the three doctors ought never to have been arrested at all, and that I considered the Russian authorities to be responsible for their safety. I finally expressed an earnest hope that these British subjects would be liberated early next morning, and that I should thus be relieved from the necessity of addressing to the superior military authorities an official remonstrance on the subject.

At about 9 o'clock this morning, as I was about to proceed to the Russian head-quarters to ascertain what was intended to be done, a Russian Colonel called at Her Majesty's Consulate on the part of General Stein, the Provost Marshal-General, and delivered to me the following message:—

"Je viens de la part de M. le Général Stein pour vous parler au sujet de quelques médecins Anglais qui ont été amenés ici comme prisonniers. Le Général m'a ordonné de vous dire que Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc ayant été informé ce matin de l'état de ces messieurs, a donné ordre de les mettre de suite en liberté, ainsi que le correspondant du journal Anglais. Ils n'auraient pas dû être traités comme prisonniers de guerre, et si cela est arrivé ce n'est que par suite d'un malentendu de la part d'officiers subalternes. Le Général m'a chargé en même temps de vous dire que ces messieurs pourront quitter la ville quand bon leur semblera, et que s'ils désirent aller à Constantinople ils pourront partir par voie du chemin de fer, aussitôt que le service sera rétabli. A cet effet le Général promet que lorsqu'il y aura un train il vous en donnera avis."

I requested the officer to thank the General for his civil message. I added that the fact of this course being now taken served to show how greatly the superior authorities disapproved the treatment to which these British subjects had been subjected.

I inclose for your Excellency's information an extract of a Diary kept by Dr. Kirkpatrick, and which that gentleman has just placed in my hands, giving an outline of the unjustifiable, nay brutal ill-usage, which he and his companions have suffered at the hands of the Russian military authorities.

The four gentlemen leave this by railway for Constantinople to-morrow morning.

I beg leave further to report that having heard that three other gentlemen, namely, Dr. Smith, Mr. Denton, and Mr. Goodrich, attached to the Red Crescent Society, are detained as prisoners by the Russian authorities at Stryglin, near Arabа-Konak, I have called on General Stein and requested him to telegraph orders for their immediate release, expressing at the same time the hope that measures would be taken to prevent them from being subjected to the harsh and cruel treatment which Dr. Leslie and his party have experienced under similar circumstances. General Stein promised to give this matter his best and promptest attention.

I would venture to suggest to your Excellency the advisability of the Foreign Office telegraphing to Her Majesty's Embassy at St. Petersburgh with a view to move the Russian Government to send orders to the military authorities in Turkey for the protection of all British subjects who are employed by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and also as special correspondents and artists, who may happen to fall within the Russian lines.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 631.

Journal of Dr. Kirkpatrick.

Tuesday, January 1, 1878.—THE Russian army were on the plain at Kamarli. Dr. Leslie, on our behalf, left Stryglia, where we were residing, to report to the Russian authorities our presence in the latter place. He was riding at the time, and on advancing near the army was fired at, the ball passing quite close to his head. He was then taken to General Gourko, who received him perhaps courteously, asking him to sit down on his own chair and have some tea, by-the-bye, exclaiming, "Here is some tinned milk which belongs to you;" this being part of the property which, together with instruments, medical comforts, and other effects in the tent at the time, were looted, the tent being utterly destroyed.

Dr. Leslie was informed by General Gourko that we were free. He then returned. At 4·30 P.M. a company of Cossacks with officers arrived. Mr. Denton, of the Red Crescent Ambulance, who was standing near our houses, met them. They immediately seized his gold watch and chain, returning it, however, the following day, though not without giving us considerable trouble. They then stole our horses and saddles, forks, knives, and, in fact, everything they could lay their hands upon, and insulted us in every possible way into the bargain. Our hospitals were inspected by the Russian doctors, who treated us shamefully. They would not take our word for the nature of the wounds, but made us remove all bandages at a late hour in the evening, much to the discomfort of the patients.

We attended the hospital always under guard; they gave nothing to the wounded, neither food nor medicine, but afforded us assistance in the shape of sending doctors who, detesting the wounded Turks, handled them roughly.

Colonel Charles Baker, who was lying ill at Dr. Leslie's house, was treated cruelly and wrongfully. The Russian officers came there, chatted and filled the room with smoke, although they were frequently told not to do so, on account of the dangerous condition of Colonel Baker. Mr. Bell, of the "Illustrated London News," was not allowed to leave his room, except with a guard. Whenever we complained we were always told, "It cannot be helped; you are English."

Saturday, January 12.—We were ordered to leave Stryglia on our way to head-quarters. We walked to Orchanié under guard, and arrived at 11 P.M. Had some bread and water on the road. After searching about for the Commandant, who was said to be intoxicated, we found his house. He sent us to the military prison, a building the ground floor of which was covered with fæcal matter, the stair leading to the room above being used as a water-closet. We slept in the top room with Russian criminals and two Turkish prisoners; one of the latter died during the night, being kicked and brutally knocked about an hour before his death. We had no bed-clothes, no fire, and there were no windows in the place, but iron bars instead; the place was swarming with pediculi.

January 13.—We were marched up and down the street of Orchanié. The guard, twelve men in number, were most insolent. They threatened to stab Mr. Bell. We were standing on the road-side waiting to see a regiment of cavalry march by. The Commander who came before asked us whether we were English. We requested him kindly to ask the guard to be less insulting, or else perhaps we might strike them and suffer the consequences, even if it was shooting. This officer or General exclaimed, "Yes; you will be shot." We slept another night in these dirty quarters, and were marched on the 14th to Osikovo. We were made to walk all the way, although we had our horses with us. Up to this point we received 1½ roubles each, a large sum for fourteen days. On the 15th we reached Gallinitza, hungry, footsore, and tired, being as usual insulted by our guard and every officer we met.

January 16.—We were at Sukovitza, Mr. Bell being there very ill from dysentery. The 17th we reached Gorni-Dubnik at 8·30 P.M., having bought an araba at the last-named place for 35 roubles, horses included. By these means we were able to convey Mr. Bell, who was too ill to walk. The Commandant here gave us some tea, and asked us if we had any Turkish money, as he wanted to get some. We obliged him, he sounding on the table every coin. An hour after he came with a policeman, and accused us of trying to cheat him, saying two of the liras were bad. He threatened to search all of our baggage, and put an extra guard on the room.

January 18.—Arrived at Plevna; fearfully cold day, snowing and blowing. Saw Commandant. He placed us in the common prison with criminals of all kinds. The floor on which we slept was filthy and dirty, thousands of lice crawling about the room, and the inmates did nothing but smoke and scratch all the time. Our horses stood out in the

snow and cold all night, and our araba, for which we paid 7 imperials, was not allowed to be brought into the prison-yard, in consequence of which the best wheel was stolen during the night. We ordered dinner to be brought to us in the prison, and paid 49 francs, but we got nothing for our money.

January 19.—Left Plevna, buying another araba for 10 imperials, and replacing wheel of old araba; walked on, reaching Setova at 8·30 P.M. After a cold and tiring march, slept on the floor of a Bulgarian house. Had bread and water only.

January 20.—Arrived at Lovatz. 21st, reached Selvi, at 8 P.M. Kept standing in the streets for an hour, waiting to see the Commandant, the mud and water nearly up to our knees. During this time I walked two or three steps to secure a dry footing; a soldier of our guard rushed at me (Dr. Kirkpatrick) with his gun, and pierced my coat with the bayonet. We were here kept prisoners in the police court for two days.

January 23.—Arrived at Gabrova. Dr. Kirkpatrick was very ill from severe cold and sore throat. We here were forced to leave our arabas, getting 4½ imperial napoleons for them.

January 24.—A new guard, who kicked and knocked us about in a brutal manner, threatened several times to bayonet us. The roads were knee-deep with mud and water. We got through the Shipka Pass at 9 o'clock, and were obliged to camp on the wet ground at Shipka. We gave the guard tea and sugar, and in return for this they stole many of our things during the night.

January 25.—The guard would not give us time to heat water for tea, but forced us to march on. We arrived at Kyzanlik, and were obliged to stand in the streets for two hours, during which time we were insulted by two or three officers passing by. Commandant more merciful than any other we have yet come in contact with. Some Turkish surgeons there were very kind to us. We remained here until the 29th.

January 29.—Commandant gave us 2 imperials each, but nothing for Mr. Bell, except a surplus of change which he requested him to take. Mr. Bell handed it to his servant. So far then, we, the doctors, have had 14½ roubles each. We arrived in Eski-Zaghra at 9 P.M. The Commandant treated us with great suspicion, first taking us into one room, but finding that there were two doors in the room, immediately ordered us into another room where there was only one door.

January 30.—Started for Tirnova, the Commandant sending a Russian prisoner with us. We stayed at Chapirlu, sleeping in a Bulgarian house. The prisoner was very disagreeable.

January 31.—Reached a small village. Slept in a barn on a damp floor. Had dirty water to drink, and could get nothing for the horses.

February 1.—Marched beyond Tirnova, sleeping in a small village an hour beyond. Our guards certainly were more obliging than any we had yet had, but still not free from a disposition to insult us.

February 2.—We were ordered out at an early hour; had only bread and water. Travelled on to Harmanly, which we reached at 1·30. Saw the Commandant. He received us kindly, but informed us that though we could go to Adrianople by rail, our horses, seven in number, would have to be left. We proposed that our servants should bring them by road and we travel by rail, or that some one should look after them until our return. Such propositions would on no account be listened to, so we had to give them (under protest) away, receiving nothing for them.

We came on by rail and arrived at Adrianople in the evening. We were placed in a shed belonging to the Railway Company. We slept, or rather endeavoured to sleep, on the floor. The Russian soldiers in the building kept up a constant talk the whole night. Mr. Bell detected a soldier stealing from his saddle-bags. We had Turkish wounded next us, and I saw the Russian soldiers striking and kicking them. We engaged two arabas to take our baggage from this shed to our then unknown quarters. We arrived very tired and hungry at the Commandant's office. There we were obliged to stand in the courtyard for two hours, the weather being very cold, and to add insult to injury, the guard would not allow us to buy anything to allay our hunger and thirst. We were now informed that another Commander would see us, as this one was busily engaged; so we were marched for a second time up the main street, finally reaching the gates of a stately building which happily proved to be the quarters of the Grand Duke Nicholas. Alas! instead of seeing immediately the Commandant, we were again kept standing in the cold for a period of another two hours. The soldiers, out of kindness, invited us to take refuge in a building from the cold wind, but an officer, adorned with a considerable amount of gold, looking, no doubt, with great pleasure through a window at our unenviable position, unfortunately overheard the invitation given us. Knocking on the window-glass, and calling the corporal of our guard a pig, told him not to bring us in here on any

account; so there we remained. At length the Commandant arrived, taking our papers from us, and then ordering the guard to take us to the former Commandant. Again we were marched up the main street for the benefit of public inspection, and finally received our orders. Our guard was changed and off we started for our lodgings. We had not long been there before Mr. Calvert, from our Consulate, and shortly afterwards Mr. Blunt, Her Majesty's Consul, came in to see us. He was indeed surprised to hear of our severe and brutal treatment, and although at a very late hour in the evening, he acted with great promptness and kindness—a perfect godsend it was to have seen him. Immediately proceeding to the Commandant, Mr. Blunt brought before him our case, which was quickly answered by a Russian General calling on us at an early hour on the following morning, granting us perfect freedom, and in the course of the day we were informed that we might possibly depart for Constantinople by train on the morrow. Imagine then our feelings and position after a month's imprisonment under barbarous rule and brutality—a release for which we can only one and all thank Her Majesty's Consul at Adrianople, for Heaven only knows what further treatment we might have been subjected to had we been left totally to their Christian hands.

On the evening of the 4th instant we all dined at the Consul's, who entertained us—not à la Russe, upon bread and water—but, thanks to Mr. Blunt, something more substantial.

(Signed) JOHN KIRKPATRICK, M.D., *Surgeon Red Crescent Ambulance.*

Notes.

(A.) We saw many mutilated Turkish soldiers on the way, cut about in the most fearful manner.

(B.) They took our revolvers from us at Stryglia.

(C.) They struck our servants on several occasions with their guns.

(D.) The officers at Kyzanlik asking us what we were "standing there for," were answered, "Because we were prisoners." "Are you English?" Turning to the guard, they said, "They are English; lock them up in the mosque!"

(E.) On passing a Bulgarian woman with a child, the latter crying, one of our guard, in a most insulting manner, turned to us and said: "Look at that! You are the cause of that; you English have caused this misery," and then threatened to strike me if I walked so fast.

(F.) Dr. Leslie had the Red Cross "Brassard" on his arm at the time he was shot at, and unarmed.

(G.) They stole nearly half our things on the morning of our leaving Ochanie.

(H.) They offered nothing to us whatever to eat during the whole of our march.

(I.) Had it not been for Drs. Leslie and Neville, of the National Aid Society, we should not have had any medicines, bandages, or stores of any kind for the use of the Turkish wounded. The latter doctors were more than kind to us, helping us in every possible manner.

(K.) We were placed under a corporal's guard—a thing unheard of elsewhere.

(Countersigned) ARMAND LESLIE, *Principal Medical Officer English Red Cross Society.*
THOS. NEVILLE, M.D.
JOHN KIRKPATRICK, M.D., M.R.C.S., *Surgeon Red Crescent Ambulance.*

No. 632.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 195.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies (taken from the originals) of the Protocol of the bases of peace, and the Convention of Armistice signed by the Grand Duke Nicholas and Server and Namyk Pashas, the Turkish Plenipotentiaries at Adrianople, on the 31st ultimo. As I have obtained these copies confidentially, it may be as well that, for the present, it should not be known that your Lordship received them from me.

Your Lordship will perceive that by the terms of the armistice the Porte surrenders the greater part of Turkey in Europe, with its strong places and lines of defence, except Schumla and Varna, to the Russians. By compelling the withdrawal of the Turkish forces and armaments from the lines of Buyuk-Tchekmedjé, the Russians become virtually masters of Constantinople; and by drawing the line of demarcation from Sharkeui, on the Sea of Marmora, to Dédéagatch, in the Gulf of Enos, they completely cut off all approaches by land to the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Russia, therefore, enters the Conference as the "mistress of the situation." If the terms she chooses to dictate are not accepted, she can at once enter the capital of the Turkish Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 632.

Protocol of Bases of Peace

EN vue d'un armistice à conclure entre les armées belligérantes Russes et Ottomanes, leurs Excellences Server Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, et Namyk Pasha, Ministre de la Liste Civile de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, se sont rendus au Quartier-Général de Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc Nicolas, Commandant-en-chef de l'armée Russe, munis des pleins pouvoirs de la Sublime Porte; et les bases proposées par Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc, au nom de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie, ayant été acceptées par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, ont été établies d'un commun accord dans les termes suivants:—

1. La Bulgarie, dans les limites déterminées par la majorité de la population Bulgare, et qui, en aucun cas, ne sauraient être moindres que celles indiquées par la Conférence, sera érigée en Principauté autonome tributaire, avec un Gouvernement national Chrétien, et une milice indigène. L'armée Ottomane n'y séjournera plus.

2. L'indépendance du Monténégro sera reconnue. Un accroissement de territoire, équivalent à celui que le sort des armes a fait tomber entre ses mains, lui sera assuré. La frontière définitive sera fixée ultérieurement.

3. L'indépendance de la Roumanie et de la Serbie sera reconnue. Un dédommagement territorial suffisant sera assuré à la première, et une rectification de frontière à la seconde.

4. La Bosnie et l'Herzégovine sera dotées d'une administration autonome, avec des garanties suffisantes. Des réformes analogues seront introduites dans les autres provinces Chrétiennes de la Turquie d'Europe.

5. La Sublime Porte s'engage à dédommager la Russie des frais de la guerre et des pertes qu'elle a dû s'imposer. Le mode, soit pécuniaire, soit territorial, ou autre, de cette indemnité, sera réglé ultérieurement. Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan s'entendra avec Sa Majesté l'Empereur de la Russie pour sauvegarder les droits et les intérêts de la Russie dans les Détroits du Bosphore et des Dardanelles.

Des négociations seront immédiatement ouvertes au Quartier-Général de Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc, Commandant-en-chef, entre les Plénipotentiaires des deux Gouvernements, pour arrêter les préliminaires de la paix.

Aussitôt que les présentes bases et une Convention d'Armistice auront été signées, les hostilités seront suspendues entre les armées belligérantes, y compris celles de la Roumanie, de la Serbie, et du Monténégro, pour la durée des négociations de paix.

Les Commandants-en-chef des deux armées belligérantes en Asie en seront immédiatement avisés, à l'effet de procéder entre eux à la conclusion d'un armistice, qui mettra fin également aux opérations militaires. Le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman donnera l'ordre aux troupes Ottomanes d'évacuer, dès que l'armistice aura été signé, les forteresses de Widdin, de Roustchouk et de Silistrie en Europe, et celle d'Erzeroum en Asie. En outre, les troupes Russes auront la faculté d'occuper militairement, pendant la durée des pourparlers, certains points stratégiques spécifiés dans les Conventions d'Armistice.

En foi de quoi le présent Protocole a été dressé et signé en double exemplaire à Andrinople le $\frac{19}{31}$ Janvier, 1878.

(Signé) NICOLAS.
SERVER.
NAMYK.

Inclosure 2 in No. 632.

Convention of Armistice.

PAR suite de la proposition de la Sublime Porte et du consentement exprimé par ses Plénipotentiaires leurs Excellences Server Pacha et Namyk Pacha d'accepter les bases formulées par la Russie pour la conclusion de la paix entre les parties belligérantes, le Commandant-en-chef de l'armée Impériale Russe s'est déclaré prêt à faire cesser les opérations militaires.

Pour la conclusion d'un armistice ont été désignés en qualité de Plénipotentiaires de la part de Son Altesse Impériale le Commandant-en-chef, son Excellence l'Aide-de-camp-général, Général d'Infanterie Nepokoïtchitzki, Chef d'Etat-Major de l'armée active, et son Adjoint, le Général-Major à la suite de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, Levitzki;

Et de la part des Plénipotentiaires de la Sublime Porte, son Excellence le Général de Division d'Etat-Major Nedjib Pacha, et le Général de Brigade d'Etat-Major Osman Pacha.

Ces personnages, en vertu des pleins pouvoirs dont ils ont été investis, sont tombés d'accord sur les conditions suivantes:—

1. Un armistice est conclu entre les forces armées de la Russie, de la Serbie, et de la Roumanie d'un côté, et celles de la Turquie de l'autre, pour toute la durée des négociations de paix et jusqu'à l'issue favorable de ces dernières ou jusqu'à leur rupture. Dans cette seconde alternative, et avant que les hostilités soient reprises, chacune des parties belligérantes sera tenue de dénoncer l'armistice trois jours à l'avance, avec la désignation de la date et de l'heure auxquelles les hostilités pourront être reprises. Le délai de trois jours courra à partir du moment où l'une des parties respectives aura signifié à l'autre sur les lieux l'ordre supérieur reçu à ce sujet.

Le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie proposera au Monténégro de cesser les opérations militaires et d'adhérer aux conditions de l'armistice convenu entre la Russie et la Turquie; la Sublime Porte, de son côté, cessera les opérations contre le Monténégro.

2. L'armistice aura force exécutoire du moment où ses conditions auront été acceptées et signées. Les troupes de l'une ou de l'autre partie qui, après ce terme, auraient enfreint la ligne de démarcation ci-dessous indiquée, devront se reporter en arrière en restituant le butin enlevé à cette occasion.

3. Outre l'évacuation des forteresses de Widdin, Roustchouk, et de Silistrie stipulée dans les bases de paix, les troupes Impériales Ottomanes abandonnent Belgradtchik, Rasgrad, et Hadji-Oglou-Bazardjik. En conséquence la ligne de démarcation à établir entre les armées Russes, Serbes, et Roumaines d'un côté, et les armées Ottomanes de l'autre, est tracée ainsi qu'il suit:—

La ligne de démarcation passera par Baltchik et Hadji-Oglou-Bazardjik en droite ligne vers Rasgrad, avec une zone neutre de cinq kilomètres en avant de cette ligne. Elle continuera de Rasgrad en ligne droite à Eski Djouma, d'Eski Djouma à Osman Bazar et Kotel (Kazan), qui seront occupés par les troupes Russes, et la zone neutre sera tracée en avant de la ligne à cinq kilomètres de distance. Plus loin la ligne de démarcation longera les rivières Medvan, Deli-Kamtchik, Bogar-déré, et par le village d'Oglanloukend et par Hadji-déré jusqu'à Messevrie—la zone neutre d'une largeur de cinq kilomètres suivant les deux rives de ces rivières jusqu'à la mer et le long de la côte jusqu'au Lac de Dercos. Toutefois les troupes Russes n'occuperont sur la côte de la Mer Noire que Bourgas et Midia, dans le but de faciliter le ravitaillement des troupes et à l'exclusion de la contrebande de guerre. Du Lac de Derkos la ligne de démarcation se dirigera par Tchechmedjik et Kardjali en ligne directe, en coupant le chemin de fer sur la rive droite de Karason, dont elle suivra le cours jusqu'à la Mer de Marmora.

Les troupes Turques évacueront la ligne des fortifications, ainsi que Dercos, Hademkeui, et Buyuk-Tchekmedjé. La ligne de démarcation de leur côté partira de Kutchuk-Tchekmedjé en ligne directe par St. Georges et Akbounar, sur la côte de la Mer Noire. Les terrains intermédiaires constitueront entre les lignes Turques et Russes une zone neutre, où des travaux de fortification ne pourront être ni élevés, ni augmentés, ni reparés pendant la durée de l'armistice. A partir de la Mer de Marmora la ligne de démarcation passera par l'Isthme de Gallipoli, de Charkeui à Ourcha, et plus loin le long de la Mer Egée, jusqu'à Dédéagatch et Makri, ce dernier point y compris. Ensuite par la ligne où se produit la distribution des eaux des

affluents de la Maritza (y compris l'Arda), et des rivières qui se déversent dans la Mer Egée jusqu'à Djouma. Elle continuera sur une ligne tracée vers Kustendil, Vrania, Planina, Goliak, le village de Mesliza, Planina-Grapachniza, le village de Loubtche, jusqu'à la frontière du Sandjak de Novi-Bazar, pour aboutir par cette frontière à la Serbie, au point appelé Kopaonik-Planina. Djouma, Kustendil, Vrania, sont occupés par les troupes Russes ou Serbes, Prichtina par les troupes Ottomanes.

Le tracé de la ligne de démarcation entre les troupes Impériales Ottomanes et celles du Monténégro devra s'effectuer par une Commission Spéciale de Plénipotentiaires de la Turquie et du Monténégro, avec la participation d'un délégué Russe. La fixation sur place des limites de la zone de démarcation entre les armées Impériales belligérantes devra avoir lieu sans délai, immédiatement après la signature de ces conditions, par l'entremise d'une Commission d'officiers des deux armées ayant qualité à cet effet, et pris dans les corps et détachements les plus rapprochés des lieux du tracé. Là où il n'y aurait pas de troupes à proximité, la zone de démarcation suivra la direction et sera indiquée par les limites naturelles ci-dessus et qui sont portées à la connaissance des deux armées.

La zone de démarcation de Djouma par Vrania jusqu'à la frontière du Sandjak de Novi-Bazar sera fixée sur place par une Commission de délégués des troupes Impériales Ottomanes d'un côté et des troupes Serbes de l'autre, avec la participation d'un délégué Russe.

4. Les troupes des deux parties belligérantes qui, à l'époque de la signature du présent acte, se trouveraient en dehors de la ligne indiquée, devront immédiatement être portées en arrière, et cela pas plus tard que dans le délai de trois jours.

5. En abandonnant les points fortifiés indiqués à l'Article 3, les troupes Impériales Ottomanes se retireront avec leurs armes et leurs munitions de guerre et objets d'équipement, ainsi que le matériel qui peut être emporté, dans les directions suivantes: de Widdin et Belgradtchik, par le défilé de St. Nicolas, vers Ak Palanca, Nisch, Lescovatz, et par Vranié ou Prichtina, selon qu'il sera plus facile, pour gagner le chemin de fer. De Roustchouk, Silistrie, Hadji-Oglou, Bazardjik et Rasgrad, vers Varna ou Choumla, selon que l'autorité militaire Ottomane en décidera.

Le matériel de guerre et autre des forteresses, les navires de guerre ou appartenant à l'Etat, et tout ce que s'y rapporte, pourront à volonté être emmenés ou laissés à la surveillance de l'autorité militaire Russe, qui prendra des mesures pour leur conservation jusqu'à la conclusion de la paix, d'après un inventaire en double signé par les deux parties. Quant aux vivres qui sont exposés par leur nature à subir des avaries, ils pourront être vendus ou cédés à l'autorité militaire Russe contre un prix équivalent à convenir. La propriété privée reste intacte. L'évacuation des places et points fortifiés ci-dessus mentionnés devra être accomplie dans le délai de sept jours au plus tard à partir de la réception de l'ordre y relatif par le commandant local.

6. Les troupes Impériales Ottomanes et les navires de guerre quitteront également Soulina dans le délai de trois jours, si les glaces n'y mettent pas obstacle. L'autorité militaire Russe, de son côté, fera enlever du Danube toutes les entraves et ouvrira le fleuve à la navigation, tout en s'en réservant la surveillance.

7. Dans les provinces occupées par les troupes Russes ou alliées, dans lesquelles lors de la signature de ces conditions se trouveraient encore des autorités administratives Ottomanes, les dernières devront y rester pour continuer à exercer leurs fonctions et à maintenir la tranquillité et l'ordre parmi la population; elles auront aussi à remplir, dans la mesure du possible, les exigences des autorités militaires Russes.

8. Les lignes des chemins de fer comprises dans le rayon occupé par les troupes Russes seront respectées comme toute propriété privée, et l'exploitation en sera libre sur tout leur parcours. A cet effet le Gouvernement Ottoman laisse aux compagnies la faculté de la circulation de leur matériel roulant sur toute l'étendue de la ligne occupée, tant par les armées Ottomanes que par les troupes Russes. Pour la circulation des passagers et des marchandises une entière liberté sera accordée, sauf les restrictions suivantes: il sera défendu de transporter du matériel de guerre et des troupes à travers la ligne de démarcation. Dans le rayon occupé par les deux armées l'exploitation aura lieu sous la surveillance de l'autorité militaire de chacune d'elles.

9. La Sublime Porte lèvera le blocus des ports de la Mer Noire pour toute la durée de l'armistice et ne s'opposera plus à la libre entrée des navires dans ces ports.

10. Les malades et blessés appartenant à l'armée Impériale Ottomane qui resteraient dans le rayon occupé par les troupes Russes ou par celles de la Serbie et du Monténégro, seront pris sous la sauvegarde des autorités militaires Russes et alliées, mais ils seront soignés par un personnel médical Ottoman, s'il en existe sur les lieux. Les malades et blessés ne seront pas considérés comme prisonniers de guerre, mais ils

ne pourront sans autorisation spéciale des chefs militaires Russes et alliés se faire transporter sur d'autres points. L'armistice commencera à courir à partir du 31 Janvier, 7 heures soir. Quant aux autres délais ils sont stipulés dans le texte même de l'armistice.

Pour le théâtre de la guerre en Asie la fixation des détails aura lieu par l'entremise de Plénipotentiaires désignés par le Commandant-en-chef de l'armée Russe en Asie et de ceux du Gouvernement Ottoman.

Le commencement de l'armistice sur le théâtre de la guerre en Europe sera notifié par le télégraphe au commandement de l'armée Russe en Asie.

(Signé) NEDJIB.
OSMAN.
NEPOKOITCHITZKI.
LEWITZKI.

No. 633.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 107.)

Constantinople, February 8, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 183 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inclose in original some further extracts from Consul Blunt's Journal from the 26th to the 31st ultimo, which have been forwarded to me by that gentleman.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 633.

Further Extracts from Consul Blunt's Journal.

January 26, Saturday.—The Grand Duke Nicholas arrived at 3 P.M. The Bulgarian clergy and notables, with a large gathering of the Bulgarian community, met His Imperial Highness half-way between the town and Karagatch. Beyond the second bridge were the Greek, Jewish, and Mussulman clergy, with the chiefs of their respective communities. The Greek Archbishop presented the New Testament to the Grand Duke, who kissed it without dismounting. The Archbishop then read an address to the effect that, as the Czar had declared that the object of the war was to ameliorate the condition of the Christians, the community hoped that that object would be secured. A violent shower of rain fell as the Archbishop began to read, upon which the Grand Duke covered his head. He went off without making any answer, but took the written address, which was drawn up in Greek and in French, and handed it to his aide-de-camp. On this side of the nearest bridge a triumphal arch had been erected. It was decked not only with the Russian, but with the French, German, Austrian, and Greek colours. The German and Austrian flags did not, however, bear the Imperial arms. At this place a young Greek girl presented the Grand Duke with a bouquet. The concourse of spectators along the way was not, upon the whole, considerable. This may in part have been owing to the unpropitious weather. There was little, if any, show of enthusiasm on the part of the non-Bulgarian inhabitants, who constitute a very large majority of the population of the town.

The town remains quite quiet, but is crowded with Russian troops.

The Consular Body arranged that the Austrian Consul should call on their part upon M. de Nelidoff, the Russian Political Agent, and ask when he can receive them. He will at the same time make inquiries as to what will be done with the Turkish guard.

January 27, Sunday.—In the afternoon I called on M. de Nelidoff, "Chargé de la Chancellerie Diplomatique de l'Empereur." I was accompanied by the Austrian, French, and Greek Consuls. He expressed his surprise that Adrianople had not been burnt like the other towns evacuated by the Turkish troops. He observed: "Nous ferons ici comme nous avons fait à Toultcha, le premier endroit où nous nous sommes mis en rapport avec les Consuls résidants en Turquie. Nous respecterons la position et les droits et privilèges des Consuls en tout que la situation nous le permettra. Dans le cas où vous auriez quelque plainte à faire je vous prie de vous adresser à moi, et je serai heureux de vous être utile en tant qu'il dépendra de moi."

On our referring to the subject of the Turkish soldiers left here by the Ottoman authorities for the protection of the foreign Consuls and subjects, M. de Nelidoff said that these men would not, of course, be considered as prisoners; but that it would, under present circumstances, be a matter of great difficulty to send them to the Turkish lines. He would, however, he said, give his best attention to the subject. As some of the Russian troops have been billeted in the houses of foreign subjects, the hope was expressed by the Consular Body that foreign subjects would be exempted from the obligation to receive soldiers in their houses. M. de Nelidoff replied as follows:—

"En principe nous avons le droit de mettre des troupes dans les maisons de qui que ce soit, et les étrangers ne sauraient être dispensés de l'obligation de les recevoir. Nous tacherons pourtant de rendre cette obligation en pratique aussi peu onéreuse que possible, et si, par exemple, il s'agit de personnes de distinction on fera des exceptions en leur faveur. Mais je ne peux pas promettre que tous les sujets étrangers seront soustraits de l'opération de cette mesure."

M. de Nelidoff again referred to the subject of the tranquillity which has been preserved at Adrianople during the three or four days previous to the occupation of the town by the Russians, and he gave credit to the Consuls for this happy state of things. He added:—

"Je serai heureux si cela pourra continuer, mais je crains que des motifs de plainte ne manqueront pas de se présenter, vu que la ville est occupée par un si grand nombre de troupes, et que nos soldats sont très fatigués à la suite de la longue et pénible campagne à laquelle ils viennent d'assister. Dans ces circonstances vous devez vous attendre à des sujets de plainte."

We, the four Consuls, afterwards called on the Ottoman Delegates, Server and Namyk Pashas. The latter informed me that the negotiations for peace had been suspended, the conditions offered by the Emperor of Russia being so hard that it was impossible for the Delegates to entertain them, or even discuss them, without new and special instructions from Constantinople. His Excellency said that he was not at liberty to communicate to me the nature of those conditions; but he remarked that they went far beyond any pretension yet put forward in the Russian press, and that they directly affected British interests. We also saw M. Tuvin, the Secretary-in-chief of the Ottoman Delegates, who declared that the conditions astonished him, and that they were such as could not be even entertained by the Ottoman Government. The Sultan alone could take upon himself the responsibility of accepting them. I found him and the Delegates very much depressed, and all three observed that unless Europe interfered Turkey would be lost.

January 28, Monday.—The Rev. Mr. Rosenberg (Scottish American missionary) came in the afternoon complaining that he and his family had been expelled from their house by Russian soldiers, under the directions of the Dragoman of General Prince Mirsky, who had been quartered upon him the day before. (This case is still pending between Her Majesty's Consulate and the Russian authorities).

January 29, Tuesday.—The Consular Body went, by appointment, at 11 A.M., to pay their respects to the Grand Duke Nicholas. His Imperial Highness received us in the most courteous and affable manner, and addressed a few words to each of us. The Grand Duke then said, in French, "Je vous remercie, Messieurs les Consuls, pour la tranquillité que vous avez conservée à Andrinople. Je ferai mon possible pour continuer à la maintenir, et j'espère que vous me donnerez votre appui dans cette tâche. Vous devez toutefois vous attendre à quelques désordres, mais nous ferons notre mieux pour les éviter; et j'espère que nous resterons amis."

January 30, Wednesday.—Complaints are continually being made of acts of pillage committed by the Russian troops in the town and neighbourhood. Not only has every house in the Turkish quarter been gutted, but Christians of all denominations have sustained heavy losses, and this, to all appearance, with the tacit consent of the Russian authorities, who take no measures either to prevent these disorders or to punish the offenders. The farm of MM. Kiriazi Brothers, and that of M. Attinalmaz, both Greeks, have been pillaged by Cossacks; and to-day a valuable farm at Daoudjara, two hours' from Adrianople, belonging to M. Vernozza, Italian Consular Agent, was completely sacked by Russian soldiers and Bulgarians. M. Vernozza had taken the precaution of hoisting the Italian flag and placing the Italian arms over his property, but not the slightest respect was paid to either. All the live-stock, a large quantity of grain and other property, of the value of 2,000*l.*, has been carried off or destroyed.

January 31, Thursday.—To-day, at 2 P.M., the basis of a Treaty of Peace was signed by the Grand Duke and the Ottoman Delegates. Later in the afternoon, the event was publicly proclaimed in the courtyard of the Government konak to the assembled troops,

who received the announcement with loud cheers, which were prolonged for ten minutes, the military band at the same time playing the Russian National Anthem.

No. 634.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 198.) *Constantinople, February* 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a despatch which I have received from Acting Consul Barker, relative to the state of affairs in his Consular district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 634.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, February 2, 1878.

(Extract.)

AT 3 P.M. to-day I received a telegram from five Vice-Consuls of European States at Cavalla, the like of which has also been telegraphed to their respective Consuls in this city, to beg that a man-of-war of any nation be sent to them to protect them and all the Mussulman and Christian inhabitants of Cavalla under the pressure of the great influx of Circassians, who have come from the seat of war to Cavalla to embark, and in the fear that the town and neighbouring villages will not be able to furnish a sufficiency of food for them, that then they would pillage it. They pray also that the Governor-General of Salonica be petitioned to find means of transporting them by sea to Asia Minor, declaring they are very anxious to go, but have no vessels to embark in.

There is a report here that there has been some severe fighting between the Servians and the Ottoman troops at or in the defile Kurshumli.

February 3.—Before closing I have just received authentic information that at Volo an assembly of the Mohammedan Beys and influential Christians was held, who sent a deputation to the Chiefs of the volunteers, begging them to return to Greece, and not bring on them and on the whole country misery and misfortunes which would certainly result from their scheme of raising an insurrection.

No. 635.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 199.) *Constantinople, February* 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a letter, and copy of a despatch from Consul Reade, giving an account of proceedings of Cossacks and armed Bulgarians towards two English subjects and other persons in the neighbourhood of Varna. Mr. Reade's letter is dated the 31st ultimo, the day the armistice was signed. He informs me that the Mussulmans are flying in terror before the Russians, and that there are upwards of 30,000 of them in a starving condition in Varna alone.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 635.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, January 31, 1878.

(Extract.)

TWO British subjects came to me this morning to state what had occurred to them at the Gubedje station at daybreak this morning.

They were in bed and were awoke by hearing the smashing in of the windows, through which a number of Cossacks and armed Bulgarians rushed in. These then with great violence rifled all the boxes of their contents and finished by smashing and destroying everything.

One Jones, a platelayer, had his wife and family with them and who were also very roughly treated. Jones had in one of his boxes all his savings for many years and what has been lately left to him by his father, amounting altogether to 500*l.* or 600*l.* This was all taken away.

Another man, Creuze, was plundered of what he had upon him.

They came to ask my advice. All I could advise them was to bring me a statement of what they had lost, which I would hold in case an opportunity offered for making a claim.

After blowing up the line with dynamite, the aggressors smashed and destroyed everything they could and then retired to a neighbouring height, taking the station-master and the telegraphic apparatus with them.

The people are rushing in here from all directions, and the authorities appear to have lost all control over themselves.

Inclosure 2 in No. 635.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, February 5, 1878.

Sir,

ON the 31st ultimo I informed your Excellency privately that two British subjects had that day been to me to depose what they had suffered early that morning at the Guebedje station from Cossacks and armed Bulgarians.

I have now the honour to inclose herewith copies of their depositions drawn up the same day in this office.

Having yesterday heard that a Russian parlementaire from General Zimmermann had arrived at head-quarters here and that it was under the command of the General's Chief of Staff, and thinking it might perhaps be well to try to bring the case of the two plundered Englishmen to the knowledge of the General whilst it was still fresh, I went to Prince Hassan with copies of the depositions and asked him if it would be proper to hand them to the Chief of the Staff. His Highness replied that he would be happy to do so, and also to support them as far as he could.

I consequently left them with him, and presume they have been delivered as promised.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE,

Inclosure 3 in No. 635.

Declaration of James Jones.

PERSONALLY appeared before me, Richard Reade, Her Majesty's Consul for the Vilayet of the Danube, this 31st day of January, 1878, James Jones, a British subject, residing in the Vice-Consular District of Varna, and who having been duly sworn, made the following declaration:—

I, James Jones, a British subject, and plate-layer in the service of the Varna-Rustchuk Railway Company, and stationed at Gubedje (17 Kilom. from Varna on the line of railway), was awakened from my sleep this morning at between the hours of 6 and 7 A.M. by the noise of the windows of my house (which is part of the station Gubedje) being broken in. On getting out of my bed I saw the platform of the station crowded with Russian military. They knocked at my door, and I opened it. In the space of a few seconds my room was full of them, and they at once fixed their bayonets, when I was nearly stunned with a blow from the butt-end of a gun, and I cried out "Christian!" but of that they took no notice, and at once commenced to ransack my furniture, boxes, and scarcely anything in my house was left either unturned or destroyed.

I had all my things in readiness, expecting orders to leave at any moment.

My money and valuables were packed in my boxes, but previously I had them hid away. They took all, as well as the best of my own and family's wearing apparel.

The following is a list of the money and valuables stolen from me:—

Of my savings at Gubedje:—

113 Turkish liras in one bag.

One bag containing 97 English sovereigns.

One purse containing 38 Turkish liras.
One gold chain, costing 4*l.* sterling.
One Colt's revolver, costing 3 liras.

Recently inherited from my father's estate:—

650 gold napoleons in one bag.
One bracelet made from 12½ lira-pieces, and clasped with 2 lira-pieces.
One bracelet made from 6¼ lira-pieces, and clasped with 2 half-lira pieces.
Two silver watches, costing 8*l.* sterling.
One gold watch, costing 15 napoleons.
One gold chain, costing 10*l.* sterling.
One gold Albert guard with an Egyptian gold coin attached, costing 4*l.* 10*s.* sterling.
One breech-loading gun, costing 10 napoleons.

The following is a list of bags of money, belonging to the workmen under my charge, which were in my boxes, stolen with my property, and said to contain as follows:—

One bag containing 2,500 piastres in silver and metalliques, belonging to Giorge.
One bag containing 4,500 piastres in gold, silver, and metalliques, belonging to Dobri.
One bag containing 1,300 piastres in silver and metalliques, belonging to Boutchu.

(Signed) JAMES JONES.

Witnesses:
(Signed) P. A. CHERNEFF.
DIMITRI NICOLEFF.

Sworn, declared, and signed in my presence, this 31st day of January, 1878.
(Signed) R. READE, *Her Majesty's Consul.*

Inclosure 4 in No. 635.

Declaration of John Cruize.

PERSONALLY appeared before me, Richard Reade, Her Majesty's Consul for the Vilayet of the Danube, this 31st day of January, 1878, John Cruize, a British subject, residing in my district, and an engineman in the service of the Varna-Rustchuk Railway Company, and who, having been duly sworn, made the following declaration:—

I, John Cruize, was staying at James Jones's house on the Gubedje station last night, and when still in bed early this morning was awakened by the cry that the Russians were in the station, and before I could get out of bed I heard the windows being smashed in, when Jones's wife ran into my room, and told me that they were beating Jones. I put on my boots and got as far as the yard door to go into their house, where I was met by a Cossack, who drew his sword, and, putting it to my breast, said:—"Para! Para!" He took what money I had, which was 7 medjidies, and my watch, value 7*l.* sterling. Ballif, an engineman, who was there, and behind me, was robbed of 22 medjidies. They did not molest us two any more. In the same room where we slept were the two sons of Mr. Dear, the permanent-way inspector, but they did not take anything from them.

(Signed) JOHN CRUIZE.

Witnesses:
(Signed) F. A. CHERNEFF.
DIMITRI NICOLEFF.

Sworn, declared and signed in my presence this 31st day of January, 1878.
(Signed) R. READE, *Her Majesty's Consul.*

No. 636.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 23. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, January 31, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transcribe hereafter a telegram which I have forwarded yesterday evening to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

"Russians attacked, early this morning, Tsuruk-Soo army. Turks claim to have, late in the afternoon, repulsed enemy, inflicting on him loss of 3,000 killed and wounded, and to have captured 300 prisoners and many arms."

Having called yesterday afternoon on Ibrahim Pasha, he informed me that the Russians, in considerable force, had attacked at 5 in the morning the Turkish positions near Likindjir, a fact which was not known to the public, and that the fight was still raging.

At my request he communicated to me in the evening the result of the day, which I hastened to telegraph to Her Majesty's Ambassador.

The Russians had simultaneously attacked the Turkish positions at Ardanush, but I have no information on the issue of the fight in that locality.

It is said that the Russian commanders have received orders to employ all their forces, and try to carry Batoum before the conclusion of the armistice. Should the report be true, as it is likely to be, the struggle may continue for some time.

The Turkish army of the Tsuruk-Soo has been weakened by ten battalions, which left for the capital about ten days ago. It is stated that when Dervish Pasha received orders to send this contingent he answered that he might as well follow himself the troops to Constantinople. However, he was obliged to obey, and the Russians were reinforced at about the same time by 25 battalions.

On the 18th instant Dervish Pasha directed all the sick and wounded at Batoum to be transferred to Trebizond; 400 were immediately despatched, but 800 more, who have been since expected daily, have not yet made their appearance.

It was rumoured since Monday last that the steamer "Djanik," with a number of patients and several Armenian families on board, as well as another Turkish steamer, had been blown up by Russian torpedoes at the mouth of the harbour of Batoum.

The Pasha assured me yesterday that the "Djanik" is safe, but that the "Liveri Deria," a revenue screw steam-boat of 199 tons, and 80 horse power, which was guarding the coast off Likindji, was blown up, whether by torpedoes or by accident, he could not say. He informed me at the same time that out of her crew of 35 men 16 are said to be saved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 637.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 11. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February 1, 1878.*

A CONVERSATION which I recently had with the Vali Pasha threw a good deal of light on the recent migration of the Mussulman peasantry from their homes. I have frequently mentioned that the impression prevailed that this singular movement was instigated by certain Mussulman inhabitants of the garrison towns. His Excellency told me that he was now persuaded that such was the case, and that their hope seemed to have been to stir up thereby an insurrection from which they had expected to profit, as many of them had done in the last rebellion. When they were engaged in this work the Turkish arms had not suffered the reverses which have since befallen them. His Excellency further tells me that he had been constantly impelled by influential Mussulmans of Canea to send troops in the districts which had begun to show signs of insubordination, and as early as last July a deputation of nearly all the leading Moslems had waited upon him for the same purpose. It is certain that Samih Pasha has had a difficult part to play since his arrival in Crete last March, and he deserves credit for having resisted the sinister influences with which he has been beset on every side.

The refugees now reproach their evil counsellors for having advised them to leave

their homes, as many of them are reduced to poverty, and nothing but misery and starvation stares them in the face. That the Christians were not implicated in the movement is proved by their complete abstention from any act of pillage in the abandoned villages, which his Excellency freely acknowledges and is grateful for. Orders have been given for the arrest and banishment of some intriguing Moslems for having employed devices designed to frighten the peasantry from their homes, but they seem to have had timely warning of their fate and are in hiding.

With regard to the demands which the Christians have been putting forward, Samih Pasha, like his predecessor Raouf Pasha, told me that the practical working of the Organic Law had been undeniably unfair towards the Christians, and that there were several modifications which he would willingly see introduced therein.

Costaki Pasha has spoken even more openly to me, and is aware that he has to contend against the opposition of nearly the whole body of employés, who know that should the demands of the Christians be accorded their tenure of office is at an end. It is difficult to conceive of a more unworthy class of functionaries than those now in authority, the Christians in particular having been appointed for what is called their devotion to Government, their devotion consisting in many cases in their having stooped to act as spies on their countrymen during the last rebellion, or in equally ignoble services. Costaki Pasha expressed his emphatic opinion that Crete is one of the worst governed vilayets of the Empire, and that it would be necessary to get rid of most of the present employés before there could be any real improvement in the administration. In making this sweeping condemnation of the Christian functionaries I am willing to admit that there honourable exceptions, such, for example, as the able and upright Mutessarifs of Sphakia, Nikoluki, Sartinski Pasha, who is highly esteemed by the people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 638.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 12. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February 2, 1878.*

AS I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 10, Costaki Pasha started for Fré, in Apokorona, on the 30th ultimo. Before leaving he wrote to tell me that he was led to this step in consequence of having received a petition signed by 109 delegates, urging his Excellency to lose no time to open negotiations with them Unfortunately his colleague, Salim Effendi, remained behind on the plea of indisposition. I have since heard that the committee and delegates refuse to treat with Costaki Pasha alone, and they regard Salim Effendi's alleged indisposition as a mere pretext for delaying proceedings till the preliminaries of peace shall have been signed in Roumelia. It is their intention to protest to-day against the Commission for the absence of the Mussulman member, and to throw on it the responsibility of the failure likely to be entailed thereby. I have requested M. Vice-Consul Monazzo to call on Salim Effendi on my part, to represent to him the serious consequences his continued presence here is producing.

It is evident that the autonomy which the delegates are now prepared to demand is only another name for a principality. The second article, "That the chief of the autonomous state be chosen by the people," is apparently conceived with the object of rejecting any nominee of the Porte, whether Christian or Mussulman, and thereby of choosing a foreign candidate; but as they know that the demand for a principality would at first sight be rejected, they seek to disguise it under the name of autonomy.

A struggle is now going on between the party of peace and the war party. The mass of the Cretans have ranged themselves under the former party, their desire being to exhaust every pacific method of improving their lot before making an appeal to arms. The latter is formidable by reason of the recent influx of Cretan chiefs from Greece, who are constantly landing with supplies of arms and gunpowder, and who have received money from the Committee in Athens—some assert even from the Government itself—for the special purpose of raising the island to the cry of annexation to Greece. I know of letters from patriots in Greece addressed to the recently arrived chiefs, reproaching them for having accepted money and arms and yet remaining passive. The Cretans, however, have not forgotten the terrible lesson of 1866-8, and having wives and children to take care of, they hesitate to move provided they can gain their ends by peaceful means. They

are slow to respond to the cry of annexation to Greece, knowing by bitter experience that that Power may fail them at the critical moment, and they think it safer to endeavour to obtain practical liberty under their old masters than to risk the loss of all by acting against the will of Europe. If the option were given them I believe they would prefer to throw in their lot with Greece rather than be subject to any foreign Power whatever. A year ago there was a strong feeling in favour of political union with Great Britain, but the advances of the Cretans having met with repeated rebuffs, they now think no more about it.

Last week a certain chief named Mauro Yanni hoisted the revolutionary flag in the district of Kissamos in the presence of a few hundred followers. The affair was magnified into a declaration of hostilities, and my Greek colleague dispatched a telegram from Syra to his Government, officially announcing the outbreak of an insurrection. The demonstration, however, fell flat, and certainly will not warrant the construction my Greek colleague put upon it. Appearances, nevertheless, warrant the belief that a rising will not long be delayed. The Government has thought it prudent to withdraw its officials from a kaza bordering on Sphakia, having received information that an attack was about to be made on them, and the Kaimakam of Sphakia runs a similar risk, though he has a detachment of troops to protect him.

The Christian inhabitants of all the villages near here are conveying their goods to places of safety, in order that they may be ready to flee to the mountains at a moment's notice. Many of the younger men have already preceded them.

M. Monazzo informs me that Salim Effendi has just started to join his colleague at Fré.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 639.

Consul T. F. Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 4. Political.)
My Lord, *Smyrna, February 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship's office the accompanying copy of a despatch I this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the arrival at Smyrna of a considerable number of Mussulman refugees from Roumelia in a destitute and starving condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 639.

Consul T. F. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Smyrna, February 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, during the past and present weeks, Mussulman fugitives from Roumelia have arrived here in a state of great distress, and in numbers so overwhelming as to baffle all efforts to afford them adequate relief. 19,150 came in steamers from Dédéagatch, and from Constantinople the arrival of 7,000 is reported.

Among the immigrants are between 5,000 and 6,000 Circassians, and these are being transferred by railway to Magnesia, Aïdin, and other towns of the interior in batches of from 200 to 1,000, and as speedily as the means of transport will allow. A large portion of the others are lodged and boarded in Turkish houses, and the remainder (for the most part old and infirm men and women, widows and orphans) in barracks, hospitals, and other Government buildings.

The general condition of these unfortunate beings is one of extreme destitution and starvation, and although much has been done to assuage their sufferings, the charitable exertions in their favour of Turks and Christians have, through the force of circumstances, fallen sadly short of all the requirements of the occasion. It has been found impossible to furnish more than a comparatively small portion of the refugees with any other kind of food than bread, and this they receive regularly from the Municipal or Provincial

authorities, while with money subscribed by the European community blankets and articles of clothing are purchased for their use.

The funds contributed by the foreign community here for the relief of the above fugitives amounts to about 600*l.*, a sum wholly inadequate for the purpose for which it was destined.

Under the circumstances, and notwithstanding appeals to a contrary effect from the Governor-General of the Province, it is to be regretted that the authorities of the capital persist in forwarding refugees of the above description to Smyrna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 640.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 67.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have received positive information of the troops under the command of General Soutzo having this morning crossed the frontiers into Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 641.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 69.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs called upon me to-day to inform me that the Province of Thessaly being in a state of insurrection, the Hellenic Government had sent its troops into Turkey with a view of protecting the lives and properties of Christians and Mussulmans alike; that their motive for thus acting was purely philanthropic; that they trusted that the Porte and Powers of Europe would so consider it; and that they did not desire a rupture of friendly relations with Turkey.

M. Delyanni likewise informed me that he had telegraphed to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London in this sense, and that he had sent a note to him explaining the action of the Government, which he is to communicate to your Lordship.

I have informed the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces of the invasion of Turkish territory by a Greek army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 642.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 71.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 2, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 70 of this day's date, in which I have laid before your Lordship the communication made to me this afternoon by M. Delyanni, Minister for Foreign Affairs, as to the motive for a Greek force having received orders to move across the frontiers into Turkey, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that when he made it to me I asked him whether the Greek Government had received any invitation from the Porte to take this step, and that he replied that they had not. I then told him that M. Tricoupi had, some time ago, developed to me the idea of a Greek force entering Turkey with a view of keeping order, that I had then discouraged the idea of any aggressive act against Turkey, and that your Lordship had approved of my having done so.

I then remarked to him that it was a matter of notoriety that large bands had been lately leaving Greece for Thessaly; that these bands were so large that it was impossible for them to have left without the knowledge of the Government, and that one of them had been openly recruited by M. Axelos, an officer in the Greek army.

I also said that Epirus, according to my information, was quiet, a province into which, I believe, no Greek bands had penetrated.

M. Delyanni replied that the Government had endeavoured to prevent the departure of bands, that some had escaped the vigilance of the Government, and that M. Axelos had been arrested at Chalcis.

I answered that I had heard that M. Axelos had been arrested, but also that he had been almost immediately liberated, and I asked him if he had been punished, and if he was still under arrest. M. Delyanni answered that he did not know.

M. Delyanni admitted that he did not think the action of the Greek Government could be justified by international law; but he said that a Convention existed between Turkey and Greece for the extirpation of brigandage, by which Convention the troops of either Power can pursue brigands into the territory of the other until it meets with the troops of that Power.

I answered that this case could not be applied to that Convention, and that if the Greek troops met Turkish troops a battle would probably ensue.

When M. Delyanni told me that the Greek Government had no idea of conquest I said that every one knew that Greece coveted Thessaly and Epirus.

In my despatch No. 50 of the 26th ultimo I had the honour to report to your Lordship that the King was expected to leave Athens for Lamia on the 28th instant, but that that project was abandoned on the 26th, in consequence of a report that peace had been signed, but the Greek Government has seen, since the demonstrations which took place on the 26th and 27th of last month, that no Government—composed, at any rate, of any of the present party leaders—could exist if a peace was concluded in which no mention was made of Greece; it also feared that there would be great disaffection amongst the troops if they were ordered to return home without having been called upon to take the field.

The Greek Government must have known that peace was at hand; they therefore hurriedly ordered their troops to move into Thessaly, from a fear, I think, that if Greece did nothing she would get nothing, the insurrection in Thessaly—the extent of which I believe to have been greatly exaggerated—having been seized upon as a pretext on the part of the Greek Government for invading Turkish territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 643.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 72.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 3, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has been so good as to telegraph to me informing me of the signature of the Bases of Peace and Armistice, and of the cessation of military operations.

His Excellency's despatch reached me this forenoon, and I at once addressed a letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, copy of which I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship, conveying to him this intelligence.

I understand that the Turkish Minister informed the Greek Government of the signature of the Preliminaries of Peace yesterday afternoon, and that like intelligence was given to them to-day by the Russian Minister.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 643.

Mr. Wyndham to M. Delyanni.

(Private.)
Mon cher Ministre, *Athènes, le 3 Février, 1878.*

JE m'empresse de porter à votre connaissance que Mr. Layard, Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté à Constantinople, vient de m'informer, par une dépêche télégraphique en date d'hier, et qui m'est parvenue ce matin, qu'il apprend que les Bases de la Paix et de l'Armistice ont été signé, et que toutes opérations militaires sont suspendues.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 644.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 74.)

My Lord, *Athens, February 3, 1878.*

AS it appears that the Bases of Peace and of an Armistice were signed on the 31st instant, the Hellenic forces are in all probability not included in the conditions of the armistice.

Photiades Bey is of opinion that the Guaranteeing Powers might conjointly prevail upon Greece to withdraw her troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 645.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 76.)

My Lord, *Athens, February 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Delyanni, Minister for Foreign Affairs, spoke to me this afternoon with much anxiety as to the position of this country with regard to Turkey. His Excellency asked me if I could suggest anything, and I replied by asking him whether a joint suggestion made by the Guaranteeing Powers to Greece, without, however, having the character of interfering with her freedom of action, to withdraw her troops, would be of any service. He replied he thought it might, provided it was accompanied by an assurance on the part of the Powers that life and property in the neighbouring provinces would be secure.

I told M. Delyanni that I considered immediate orders should be given to their General to avoid all collision with Turkish troops, and his Excellency said that he would suggest this to the Minister of War, and he further added that the General should be ordered to take no step which could alter the character of the motive which had induced the Hellenic Government to send troops into Turkey.

It is much to be hoped that the Ottoman troops will not come into collision with the Greek forces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 646.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 78.)

My Lord, *Athens, February 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Ottoman fleet will probably be off the Pireus to-morrow. All resistance of a serious nature being impossible, the Greek Government are now deliberating as to whether it should not make an appeal to the good offices of the Great Powers, conform with the advice they may give, and recall the forces from the Province of Thessaly on the sole condition that the lives, the honour, and the property of the inhabitants of the province in question shall be protected, and that their interests shall be submitted to the deliberations of the Congress.

I have the honour to solicit your Lordship's instructions in the above eventuality.

An analogous communication is being addressed by all my colleagues to their respective Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 647.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 79.)

My Lord, *Athens, February 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Delyanni called upon me yesterday, and spoke to me with much anxiety as to the present position of Greece with regard to Turkey, and asked me if I could suggest any means to extricate the Government from its difficult position.

I replied by asking him if he thought any joint action on the part of the Guaranteeing Powers would be of service; for instance, if they were to suggest that Greece should recall her troops, without, however, making such a suggestion as though they wished to interfere with the free liberty of action of the Greek Government; and he said that he thought it would, if accompanied by an assurance that the lives and property of the inhabitants of the Province of Thessaly would be secured.

I told him that I thought orders should be given at once to the General commanding the troops to stop his advance and to avoid all collision with the Turkish troops, and he said that he would see the Minister of War and suggest this to him; and he added further that General Soutzo should be ordered not to do anything which might alter the character of the motive which had induced the Greek Government to send their forces into Turkey. I begged M. Delyanni to see the Minister of War without delay, and to let me know what his determination was.

I saw M. Delyanni at half-past 11 o'clock this morning, and I asked him whether instructions had been sent to General Soutzo to discontinue his advance. M. Delyanni told me that he had been unable to see the Minister of War, giving me various excuses. I replied that I considered the matter was most urgent, that I was much surprised at his answer, and that I did not consider his excuses as valid, for if he could not see the Minister of War, he might have written to him. After some conversation, in which I again expressed my regret at the departure of bands from Greece to promote insurrection in Turkey, I said that the question was now to leave alone the past and to seek a way out of the difficulty of the present, and his Excellency at my request wrote down his ideas as to the best course to pursue. He showed me what he had written, which was to the effect that if the Great Powers considered that Greece should withdraw her troops from Thessaly she would do so, and he asked me my opinion. I said that if I was to make such a communication to your Lordship I should like to have the assurance that the Greek troops were not to advance further, and that if they met with Turkish troops they would do all in their power to avoid a conflict. He said he would see the King, and take His Majesty's orders on the subject, and also those of the President of the Council. On leaving M. Delyanni's room I met M. de Sabouroff, and he spoke to me upon the critical state of affairs, and I told him what I had telegraphed to your Lordship yesterday, and what I had said to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and he said that he quite agreed with me.

M. Delyanni called upon me later, and told me that he had submitted the matter to the King, and that His Majesty had said that he would reflect upon it and give an answer later. I impressed upon M. Delyanni the urgency of the case, and how necessary it was not to lose time.

Between 3 and 4 in the afternoon I went to M. de Sabouroff's house, where I met the French, the Austrian, and the Italian Ministers, and the German Chargé d'Affaires, in order to consult what steps to take to extricate the King and his Government from their difficult and dangerous position, and to avert a humiliation to Greece. During our conference, M. Delyanni called, and we asked him if he was prepared to ask us, as Representatives of foreign Powers, to take the steps he had mentioned to me in the morning, and which he had also imparted to M. de Sabouroff, and he returned rather an evasive answer, saying that he and the President of the Council did not agree upon all points, and that the King had not yet given his orders.

In the meanwhile, M. Tissot, the French Minister, had written out the draft of a telegram which it was proposed we should address to our respective Governments, and after explaining to M. Delyanni that it was considered necessary that no time should be lost, the draft telegram was read to him, and after one or two slight alterations was agreed to, and each Representative undertook to telegraph it to his Government. I had the honour to address, therefore, to your Lordship a telegram, as reported in my No. 77 of to-day's date, and I inclose herewith copy of the French text, as drawn up by M. Tissot.

I regret to say that I fear the Greek Government are bent upon continuing their

aggressive policy. Horses are being seized for transport purposes, the National Guard is being armed, the students of the university have had arms distributed to them, and yet there is no means of offering any serious resistance to an attacking force.

Greece is menaced with dangers from without and with dangers from within, which may have serious consequences, and may shake the stability of the Throne and of the Government to their very foundation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 647.

Telegram from the Russian, French, Italian, Austrian, German, and British Representatives to their respective Governments.

L'ESCADRE Turque doit probablement arriver demain devant le Pirée.

Toute résistance sérieuse étant impossible le Gouvernement Hellénique délibère en ce moment sur la question de savoir s'il ne doit pas faire appel aux bons offices des Grandes Puissances, céder aux conseils qu'elles lui feraient parvenir, et rappeler ses troupes de Thessalie, à la seule condition que la vie, l'honneur et les biens des populations de cette province soient sauvegardés, et que leurs intérêts soient l'objet de délibérations du Congrès.

Je demande instructions éventuelles; tous mes collègues font une demande analogue auprès de leur Gouvernement.

No. 648.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 5, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 79 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship, copy of a note which I have to-day received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, inclosing, for my information, copy of a telegram which he has addressed to the Heads of Greek Diplomatic Missions at Foreign Courts, as to the entry of Greek troops into Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 648.

M. Delyanni to Mr. Wyndham.

Athènes, le $\frac{24 \text{ Janvier}}{5 \text{ Février}}$ 1878.

Monsieur,

A LA suite de l'entretien que j'ai eu l'honneur d'avoir aujourd'hui avec les Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Athènes, je me fais un devoir de vous communiquer, en copie ci-jointe, le télégramme que je viens d'adresser aux Légations du Roi.

J'aime à espérer, Monsieur, que cette démarche et l'intention qui l'a dictée ne manqueront pas d'être justement appréciés par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) THEODORE P. DELYANNI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 648.

M. Delyanni to Greek Representatives abroad.

Athènes, le $\frac{24 \text{ Janvier}}{5 \text{ Février}}$ 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

TROUPES Grécques ont franchi frontière avant que signature Préliminaires et Armistice fût connue au Gouvernement. Si Grandes Puissances veulent bien garantir la sécurité des habitants des provinces Grecques de la Turquie et de la protection de leurs droits, le Gouvernement Royal est tout disposé donner l'ordre à ses troupes se retirer.

No. 649.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 8. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, February* 11, 1878.

ADVERTING to my despatch of the 4th instant No. 7, Political, I have the honour to report that, owing to the stoppage of communications with the Southern Islands, caused by the withdrawal of the Greek mail steamers, I am unable to furnish any further account of the movements of the Greek volunteers congregated at Cerigo and destined for Crete.

2. Mr. Stevens reports in a private note from Zante, under the date of the 5th instant:—

"I have nothing new of importance to communicate beyond a couple of demonstrations by the rabble of the town in the form of a march through the main streets with banners and cries of *Ζήδω ὁ Κοχέμος*.

"There are some complaints against the Acting Nomarch for his partiality in forming the lists of the reserve force. He is accused of making money by it. I think the Government would do well to send a competent man to occupy this important post, which has been vacant for several months."

I have information from another and a perfectly reliable source, that one of the demonstrations above alluded to was against the Acting Nomarch, under whose favour all the "Nobili Signorini" have been exempted from service in the new levies.

In the matter of "Backshish," the so-called "Greek Provinces" will gain nothing in the matter of an upright Government by a transfer from Turkish to Greek rule.

3. In Cephalonia no demonstrations have taken place in favour of war. The recent action of the Government is universally condemned.

4. On the evening of the 9th instant the whole of the garrison of Corfu, amounting to between 800 and 900 men, left bag and baggage for Santa Maura. Only some eighty soldiers and forty gendarmes remain in the town to furnish sentries for the banks, Treasury, &c.

The regiment marched down to the quay, preceded by the band and a numerous concourse of the inhabitants, shouting out vociferously for "war," "war."

5. The inclosed reports, received this morning from Santa Maura, will give an idea of the military movements in that quarter.

6. On the evening of Saturday last, 9th instant, I telegraphed to Consul Green, at Scutari, to inform him that Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" would leave, as to-morrow, 12th instant, for San Giovanni di Medua, and requesting to know whether or not "the coast was clear." I received an answer from Mr. Green yesterday, 10th, to say that he would meet the "Rapid" at San Giovanni, in order to communicate with Commander Fitzgerald, and further, that on the evening of the 9th, an Aide-de-camp of the Prince of Montenegro had arrived at Scutari to "settle misunderstandings about respective positions," whence I conclude that an armistice has been agreed upon between the Montenegrins and Turks.

The "Rapid" on her way back to Corfu will touch at Durazzo and Avlona, having now, with authority from the Admiral, a competent interpreter on board.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 649.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Santa Maura, February* 6, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that the battery of artillery left this morning for Vonitza, not for Agrinion, as at first announced. A detachment of infantry came from Vonitza on Monday evening and returned this morning in charge of arms and ammunition to be served out to the "Reserve" just recruited in that district.

Twenty-two volunteers from the villages of this island came in on Monday and were sent to join the "Euzones" on the frontier.

2. According to advices from the Turco-Acarnanian frontier, bearing yesterday's date, no attempt to cross over to Epirus has yet been made by volunteer bands, or otherwise, nor does it seem that the two Delegates alluded to in my preceding despatch have

hitherto succeeded in inducing the rayahs to rise, although vague reports circulate here that several Christian villages in the districts of Arta and Prevesa have actually taken up arms against the Turks. The truth is, that reports of the appearance of a band of brigands in the neighbourhood of Camarina* having been circulated at Prevesa, a detachment of troops was sent in that direction.

3. A Ladies' Committee was set on foot the other day, with the co-operation of several gentlemen, with the object of collecting donations in kind, such as linen, lint, &c., for wounded soldiers. The appeal is being liberally responded to by all classes of the Leucadians.

4. Referring to paragraph 3 of my despatch No. 40 stating that the Municipal Council had resolved to purchase 6,000 kilos. of wheat; I beg now to state that the Nomarch of Corfu, whose sanction was requisite, negatived the measure on the ground of its being incompatible with the law regulating the duties and prerogatives of Municipal Councils.

5. Great excitement prevails here, hostilities with Turkey being spoken of as imminent, in consequence of the entry of the Greek troops into Thessaly; and it is apprehended that this town will be the first to suffer from the Turks. The fort has not yet been armed, and the garrison now consists of two companies of infantry only, or about 500 men, but another company is expected to-day from Corfu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ONOFRIO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 649.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Santa Maura, February 9, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state that advices from the Turco-Acarnanian frontier of yesterday's date report that no bands of volunteers had crossed over to Epirus, and that, despite the efforts of the Committees to stir up insurrectionary movements in that province, tranquillity continues to prevail. The Committees are somewhat disappointed, as the inaction of the Epirotes is not what they have all along anticipated. The only incident worth noticing is the desertion of a Bimbashi, Emir Bey, who, along with the Secretary of Ali Pasha, the military Governor of Arta, went over to Carvassara and asked to join the Hellenic army. Emin Bey is married to a Greek lady of Arta, to whose instigation his desertion, and that of the Secretary (a nephew of the Bishop of Arta), are said to be mainly due. A young man of the name of Anthonopulos, belonging to an influential and wealthy family of Arta, was arrested at the latter place on Tuesday last on the charge of being privy to the desertion of the Bey and Secretary, and to the intrigues of agitators, compromising papers having been found about his person.

2. The Turks are strengthening themselves all along the frontier, and if a report brought here yesterday by a Turkish officer who came from Prevesa to take charge of the despatches of the Turkish Agent at this place is to be credited at all, forty "tabors," or battalions, of infantry, and several batteries of artillery, were expected at Prevesa. These would bring to the Turkish forces along the Greek frontier, a further reinforcement of about 32,000 men.

3. A telegram from Athens received yesterday morning, announcing that the Right Honourable the Earl of Derby, in a speech in the Lords, alluded favourably to the Greek question, produced the greatest satisfaction here. His Lordship's words were at once construed as an assurance to Greece that Her Majesty's Government will eventually take in hand the protection of Hellenism, as the Russian has done with the Slavonic question. It is highly gratifying to add that the greatest sympathy is evinced for Her Majesty's Government and the English nation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ONOFRIO.

---

* Three miles from Prevesa, in the direction of Sull.—S.

No. 650.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, February 15.)

Athènes, le $\frac{30 \text{ Janvier}}{11 \text{ Février}}$ 1878.

Monsieur,

VOUS savez déjà qu'une insurrection des Chrétiens a éclaté depuis quelque temps en Thessalie.

Cette insurrection menace, d'après les dernières nouvelles, de prendre des proportions plus grandes, en se propageant dans les provinces voisines de l'Epire et de la Macédoine.

J'ai à peine besoin de faire ressortir tout ce qu'il y a de grave dans un semblable mouvement, et pour les habitants des provinces, et pour la sécurité du Royaume Hellénique.

Le Gouvernement du Roi a la conscience d'avoir fait jusqu'à présent tout son possible pour prévenir un soulèvement des Chrétiens dans les provinces Grecques de l'Empire Ottoman. Dans ce but il a usé de toute l'influence qu'il pouvait exercer au dehors, en même temps qu'il a tâché au dedans, d'apaiser les esprits surexcités par la marche et les résultats de la guerre d'Orient.

Il y a quelques mois, il n'hésita pas à sévir contre ceux qui avaient pénétré en Thessalie et avaient essayé d'y soulever les Chrétiens contre le Gouvernement Ottoman. Dernièrement, lorsqu'il apprit que plusieurs individus originaires des provinces Ottomanes limithrophes s'armaient clandestinement en Grèce et se proposaient de partir pour aller se joindre aux insurgés de Candie ou de Thessalie, il s'empressa de prendre des mesures sévères contre ces agissements et ces expéditions, soit en faisant arrêter les moteurs, soit en envoyant des bâtiments de guerre à la poursuite de ceux d'entre eux qui avaient réussi à tromper la vigilance des autorités.

Mais malgré ces tendances notoirement pacifiques du Gouvernement du Roi, malgré ses efforts et ses conseils, les Chrétiens de la Thessalie, poussés à bout par l'oppression de la race dominante, ont pris les armes, et leurs coreligionnaires de l'Epire et d'autres provinces Grecques de l'Empire Ottoman, sont sur le point de suivre leur exemple. J'apprends même que les Crétois s'étant révoltés, se proposent de former un Gouvernement provisoire.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté voit avec autant plus d'émotion ces soulèvements qu'il ne s'en dissimule pas les conséquences à la veille de la paix entre la Russie et la Turquie. Pour sa part il aurait voulu les prévenir, mais son action y était insuffisante.

Lorsque d'autres peuples en Turquie recouvrent leur indépendance ou leur autonomie, les Rayahs Grecs doivent naturellement songer avec effroi à leur avenir, car ils porteraient presque seuls tout le poids des désastres essuyés par leurs dominateurs.

Une pareille perspective ne pouvait que les pousser à revendiquer seuls par leurs armes leurs droits foulés aux pieds pendant des siècles par le conquérant.

Mais cette prise d'armes, quel que soit l'intérêt qu'elle excite dans les cœurs sensibles, et surtout dans les cœurs Helléns, est un sujet de sérieuses réflexions pour le Gouvernement Royal. Qu'elle réussisse ou qu'elle ne réussisse pas, les Chrétiens de la Thessalie et de l'Epire et de la Macédoine seront en lutte aux plus cruelles souffrances, et leur cri de détresse aura un retentissement immense dans notre pays.

L'effervescence qui s'y emparerait des esprits aurait pour effet immédiat d'aggraver notre situation déjà si précaire. C'est que les rayas Grecs de l'Empire Ottoman sont considérés comme des compatriotes et des frères par les habitants du Royaume.

Il serait inutile de récapituler ici les vexations et les attentats dont les Chrétiens des trois provinces susmentionnées ont été victimes aussitôt après le commencement de la guerre Russo-Turque. Tout le monde sait les exploits des Circassiens et Bachi-Bazouks de différentes dénominations, qui se sont rués sur ces malheureuses provinces sous le prétexte d'y remplacer les troupes régulières appelées sur le théâtre de la guerre.

C'est en vain que le Gouvernement du Roi a protesté auprès de la Sublime Porte, aussi bien qu'auprès des Grandes Puissances de l'Europe, contre ces hordes sauvages et indisciplinées pour le maintien de l'ordre près de notre frontière.

C'est en vain qu'il a signalé les inconvénients et les périls résultant de la présence de semblables troupes dans les provinces Ottomanes limitrophes de la Grèce.

C'est en vain qu'il a fait observer qu'en persistant à leur confier la garde de ces provinces, c'était aller à l'encontre du but qu'on se proposait.

La Sublime Porte n'a jamais voulu faire droit à nos représentations. Au lieu de retirer les troupes irrégulières des provinces Grecques de l'Empire, elle en augmentait, au contraire, le nombre, et ne faisait qu'opposer des dénégations ou des subterfuges aux justes remontrances du Gouvernement Royal.

Les autres Puissances, à l'humanité desquelles nous avions fait appel contre cette mesure du Gouvernement Ottoman, se rendaient bien à l'évidence des faits, mais ne pouvaient malheureusement pas forcer ce dernier à délivrer les Chrétiens de la Thessalie, de l'Epire, et de la Macédoine, du fléau des Circassiens, des Bachi-Bouzouks, et des Ghekos.

Lord Derby, dans une des dernières séances de la Chambre des Lords, a bien voulu nous donner raison à cet égard. Quoiqu'il se soit borné à reconnaître jusqu'à un certain point la justice de nos plaintes, son témoignage est précieux pour nous.

Si le Gouvernement Ottoman pouvait disposer de troupes régulières suffisantes pour la garde de ces provinces, on pourrait voir d'un œil plus indifférent la répression d'une révolte des Chrétiens, quoique les troupes régulières Ottomanes elles-mêmes ne soient pas à l'abri de tout reproche, de toute accusation de férocité. Mais on peut se figurer ce qu'il adviendrait des Chrétiens de la Thessalie, de l'Epire, et de la Macédoine, et de n'importe quelle autre province Grecque de l'Empire Ottoman, avec les Circassiens et les autres Bachi-Bouzouks chargés d'étouffer leur soulèvement.

Nul doute qu'on ne voit un renouvellement des massacres de Syrie et de Bulgarie. Des troupes composées de gens ignorants, fanatiques, indisciplinés, et poussés par la cupidité la plus vile, ne feraient quartier à personne, ne respecteraient rien. Les Chrétiens seraient impitoyablement égorgés, qu'ils soient des insurgés ou non ; leurs femmes et leurs enfants ne trouveraient pas plus de merci qu'eux, et tout le monde regretterait, comme on a regretté pour les victimes de Bulgarie, qu'il ne se fût pas trouvé tout près une main secourable et Chrétienne, une Puissance quelconque Européenne pour sauver tant d'êtres innocents et inoffensifs du massacre, en sauvant à la fois tout le pays d'une ruine complète.

Pour prévenir ces horreurs et conjurer ces dangers, le Gouvernement du Roi a résolu d'occuper provisoirement par son armée les provinces Grecques de la Turquie.

Ce procédé paraît peut-être au premier abord singulier et hasardé, mais en examinant plus sérieusement on sera convaincu qu'il n'est ni injustifiable ni insolite.

La Grèce ne veut pas faire la guerre à la Turquie ; elle veut garantir sa propre sécurité, gravement compromise, par l'état d'anarchie où sont plongées les provinces Ottomanes limitrophes ; en même temps elle veut faire en sorte que la condition des populations Chrétiennes qui habitent ces provinces, et qui tournent leurs regards vers elle, soit dans tous les cas définitivement améliorée.

Il résulte de ce qui précède, Monsieur, que la mesure que nous venons de prendre, après une mûre réflexion, à l'égard des provinces Grecques de l'Empire Ottoman, ne nous est suggérée, ni par des vues ambitieuses, ni par des tendances subversives. Elle est, au contraire, une mesure d'ordre, de conservation, et d'humanité, en même temps que de sécurité du Royaume et d'apaisement de l'excitation des esprits de ses habitants.

Mais comme il est probable qu'elle soit autrement envisagée par la Turquie, et que celle-ci nous déclare la guerre, je vous prie d'appeler toute l'attention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique sur cette grave complication.

Ce Gouvernement, étant éclairé sur nos intentions, pourra contribuer par sa grande autorité à ce que les maux d'une guerre déclarée entre les deux Etats voisins soient évités, ou au moins à ce qu'ils soient considérablement diminués dans l'intérêt de tout le monde.

Je vous invite à donner lecture de la présente à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique, et à lui en laisser copie.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) THEODORE P. DELYANNI.

No. 661.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, February* 15.)

Athènes, le $\frac{27 \text{ Janvier}}{8 \text{ Février}}$ 1878.

Monsieur,

JE vous ai déjà communiqué, par ma dépêche du 20 de ce mois, ainsi que par le résumé télégraphique que je vous en ai transmis le même soir, la décision du Gouvernement Royal de faire occuper par ses troupes les provinces Grecques de l'Empire Ottoman, et les raisons graves qui avaient nécessité cette mesure.

Ce mouvement militaire, qui n'avait aucun caractère d'agression contre l'Etat voisin, fut annoncé par le Gouvernement, aussitôt après son exécution, aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Athènes, ainsi qu'à Photiades Bey, avec toutes les explications nécessaires contenues dans ma dépêche précitée.

L'impression produite par le mouvement de nos troupes, à en juger par les rapports que vous m'avez transmis par le télégraphe, aussi bien que par les représentations adressées au Gouvernement Royal par le Corps Diplomatique d'Athènes, a été au délà de toute mon attente. Elle provenait, peut-être, de la crainte d'une complication éventuelle, pouvant surgir d'un état de choses que le Gouvernement Royal a la conscience de ne pas avoir provoquée ; la protestation adressée à quelques uns des Cabinets Européens par le Gouvernement Ottoman, lequel, méconnaissant totalement le caractère de notre mesure, la qualifiait d'agression injustifiable et menaçait le Royaume Hellénique de représailles immédiate dans le cas où le Gouvernement Royal ne rappelerait ses troupes des provinces occupées, a du certainement ajouter à l'importance du fait, et en augmenter la portée. Quoiqu'il en soit, le Gouvernement du Roi est porté à croire que l'impression produite sur les Cabinets Européens par le mouvement de nos troupes témoignait plutôt de leur désir d'éviter en tout cas un conflit, dont on ne saurait calculer d'avance la portée ni les suites, et de voir atteindre le but de ce mouvement d'une autre manière plutôt, qui fit le moins possible périeliter l'œuvre de la paix, dont l'Europe se souciait à si justes titres.

C'est ainsi au moins et dans ces termes, à peu-près que l'émotion des Cabinets Européens a été expliquée au Gouvernement Royal par les Représentants des Grandes Puissances accrédités auprès de Sa Majesté. Cette explication a été aussi accompagnée du conseil adressé au Gouvernement de faire arrêter la marche de ses troupes, afin qu'un conflit éventuel entres elles et la force militaire Ottomane ne vienne paralyser l'œuvre conciliatrice que les Grandes Puissances ne manqueraient pas d'entreprendre dans le but d'atteindre, par l'action diplomatique, ce que le Gouvernement Royal s'était proposé, en faisant passer la frontière à ses troupes.

Le Gouvernement, déférant à cet avis, unanimement exprimé par les Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Athènes, confiant dans la sollicitude humanitaire des Cabinets Européens pour l'amélioration définitive du sort des populations Grecques de la Turquie, et ne désirant pas mieux que de voir les vœux nationaux de ces populations réalisés par la voix de la paix plutôt que celle de la guerre, donna l'ordre au Commandant-en-chef des troupes Helléniques d'arrêter leur marche dans l'intérieur des provinces qu'elles venaient d'occuper.

Au désir exprimé par MM. les Ministres de voir les troupes du Roi rentrer en Grèce, le Gouvernement a cru devoir répondre, qu'il n'y mettait d'autre condition qu'une garantie des Grandes Puissances assurant à la Grèce la protection de la vie, de l'honneur, et des biens des populations Helléniques de la Turquie, et l'amélioration de leur sort dans l'avenir.

Les incidents vous ont été notifiés par mes télégrammes du 24 et du 25, en même temps que l'ordre transmis à M. Soutzo était porté à la connaissance de MM. les Représentants.

La manière dont les Grandes Puissances ont répondu à l'empressement que le Gouvernement du Roi avait mis à suivre leurs conseils, vient de témoigner une fois de plus de leur bienveillance envers la Grèce, et de leur constante sollicitude pour les intérêts et les droits des populations Grecques de l'Orient. Après avoir demandé les instructions de leurs Gouvernements, les Représentants des Grandes Puissances m'ont communiqué de vive voix que la Grèce pouvait compter sur l'action efficace que les Cabinets Européens ne manqueraient pas d'exercer auprès de la Sublime Porte, afin de sauvegarder, dès ce moment, la vie, l'honneur, et les biens des populations Grecques de la Turquie, menacées sans cesse de désastres. Ils m'ont ajouté que les Grandes Puissances feraient aussi en sorte que les aspirations nationales et les intérêts de ces mêmes populations deviennent l'objet des délibérations du Congrès prochain.

Le Gouvernement Royal comptant, en pleine confiance, sur ces assurances, a donné l'ordre au Commandant-en-chef des troupes Royales de repasser la frontière, comme je vous en ai déjà instruit par mon télégramme d'hier.

Toutefois, encouragé des promesses reçues, fermement convaincu que les Grandes Puissances voudront bien, dans leur esprit d'équité, regarder comme le complément naturel de leurs promesses, la représentation spéciale des aspirations Helléniques dans le sein du Congrès, le Gouvernement en a formulé la demande vis-à-vis de leurs Représentants. Cette prétention lui a paru d'autant plus juste que les vœux des populations Helléniques de la Turquie seraient sans cela non seulement exposés à être préjudiciés au profit des intérêts des autres populations de la Turquie, ils seraient aussi contestés dans le sein du Congrès par le Gouvernement Ottoman, sans avoir un défenseur naturel qui plaidât leur justice.

Ces raisons qui militent en faveur de notre demande nous font concevoir les justes espoirs que la prétention du Gouvernement Hellénique de représenter dans le Congrès futur les droits et les vœux des populations Helléniques de la Turquie, et de pouvoir élever

sa voix pour l'amélioration définitive de leur sort, ne sera point rejetté par les Grandes Puissances.

En vous faisant part de ce qui précède, Monsieur, je n'ai pas besoin de m'appésantir sur l'importance que le Gouvernement du Roi attache à ce que sa demande soit agréée par les Cabinets Européens. La situation d'Hellénisme est très critique; celle du Royaume Grec ne l'est pas moins. Une insurrection revendiquant l'accomplissement des aspirations les plus justes et les plus sacrées de la nation Hellénique, se propageant de jour en jour et recrutant de soldats dans les rangs des citoyens du Royaume, est à nos frontières. La population toute entière de la Grèce en est vivement impressionnée; la surexcitation des esprits est arrivée à son comble et ne saurait plus être contenue. Le Gouvernement du Roi se trouve dans l'impossibilité d'opposer une digue à l'impétuosité du mouvement insurrectionnel, qui pousse la population au délà des frontières. La rentrée même de nos troupes n'a fait qu'aggraver la situation.

La certitude que l'Hellénisme serait admis à revendiquer ces droits dans le sein d'un Congrès Européen, appelé à régler définitivement les destinées des populations Chrétiennes en Orient, pourrait seule calmer les esprits et conjurer une conflagration qui menacerait de compromettre de nouveau la paix de l'Europe.

Je vous prie de donner lecture de la présente à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique, et de lui en laisser copie, s'il vous la demande.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) THÉODORE P. DELYANNI.

No. 652.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, February 15.)

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le 13 Février, 1878, soir.*

FAISANT suite à mon télégramme d'avant-hier, concernant les actes de férocité des Ghegues, je vous communique aujourd'hui les détails suivants:—

A Sinikli, village de la Thessalie, les hordes Albanaises envahirent, le 17 Janvier, un moulin, tranchèrent la tête à un des meuniers, brûlèrent un autre, l'enduisant de pétrole, et mirent le troisième en pièces à coups de yataghans. A Maranghin, autre village de Thessalie, les Albanieus envahirent, le 30 Janvier, un autre moulin, et échaudèrent avec huile bouillante trois meuniers. Au village Darcani les Ghegues égorgèrent, le 31 Janvier, un prêtre. Aussitôt après le départ des troupes Royales, à Cartymagoula, près de Carditza, des familles entières furent égorgés. On me télégraphie, le 30 Janvier, de Rethymo, en Crète, que les Ottomans massacrèrent la population sans défense. Veuillez porter ces faits à la connaissance de son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

No. 653.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 154.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 13, 1878.*

THIS afternoon, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I stated to M. Waddington that the British ships of war which had been ordered to Constantinople would be on their way thither to-day.

I mentioned also to him that there was reason to suppose that the Russians intended to enter Constantinople.

M. Waddington told me that the order to the French Chargé d'Affaires to apply for a firman for the passage of French ships through the Dardanelles had not been made absolute. On the contrary, the Chargé d'Affaires had simply been empowered to apply for a firman, if at any moment the presence of the ships should appear to him to be urgently required for the safety of French citizens at Constantinople. The Chargé d'Affaires was not, however, M. Waddington said, authorized actually to summon the French ships to Constantinople. The French Government kept the power to do so in their own hands, and whatever orders might be issued on the subject would be sent from Paris.

For the present two French ships would, M. Waddington told me, remain at Smyrna, and one at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 654.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 155. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 13, 1878.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch No. 154 of to-day, I think it right to mention to your Lordship that M. Waddington seemed particularly anxious to make it apparent that the French Government had all along regarded the dispatch of French ships to Constantinople as contingent upon French citizens being actually in danger there; that they had never contemplated sending ships in any other circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 655.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February 15.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 14 Février, 1878.*

REÇU télégramme No. Spécial 97.

Il a été soumis à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan. Tout en prenant acte des assurances de Lord Derby comme quoi l'envoi de la flotte Anglaise n'a ni n'aura jamais un but préjudiciable à l'Empire et à ses intérêts, nous devons exprimer nos craintes que la présence de cette flotte n'entraîne l'occupation de Constantinople par les Russes, et n'aille ainsi à l'encontre du but du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté, en attirant sur nous de grandes calamités publiques. La flotte Britannique entend-elle entrer à Constantinople comme force navale d'une Puissance amie et alliée, c'est-à-dire en vue d'une alliance?

Lord Derby voudra bien reconnaître, nous en sommes persuadés, que l'absence d'une déclaration formelle du Cabinet de St. James, élucidant ce point, est de nature à exclure la possibilité pour le Gouvernement Impérial de donner son consentement à la présence des vaisseaux Anglais dans les eaux de Marmara. Après tant de sacrifices que nous nous sommes imposés pour arrêter l'invasion Russe, nous ne saurions laisser la Russie profiter de cet état de choses, créé dans un but à nous inconnu, pour s'emparer de la capitale et mettre en danger la dynastie Impériale. D'ailleurs, au cas où la Russie aurait recours à des mesures agressives, soit en violation de l'armistice conclu, soit de quelque autre façon, nous serons les premiers à nous adresser au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique. Nous sommes sûrs que son concours ne nous fera pas défaut. Partout où les Russes entrent, les Bulgares procèdent contre les Musulmans par le massacre, le feu, et le pillage. En présence de ces actes de vandalisme, il est naturel que nous redoutions précisément de voir Constantinople devenir le théâtre de scènes analogues. Quant aux projets hostiles que les Musulmans nourriraient à l'endroit de leurs concitoyens Chrétiens et des étrangers, le Gouvernement Impérial agit, étant donné le moindre indice de telles dispositions, jusqu'à demander le concours d'une force étrangère.

Veuillez soumettre ces observations à l'appréciation de Lord Derby et lui laisser copie de ce télégramme. Je vous prie de faire en sorte que nous ayons au plus tôt une réponse à la question ci-dessus, réponse que nous attendons impatiemment.

No. 656.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 35.)
(Telégraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 15, 1878.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW, in reply to my inquiry this morning, said that graver incidents now passing at Constantinople had thrown momentarily the Conference question into the shade.

Nothing was yet decided as to place of meeting. He did not care for that presidency which had been offered to him by Count Andrassy, if the Conference met at Vienna; on the contrary, if it met in a small German town, he, Prince Gortchakow, should propose that Prince Bismarck should be President. He is of opinion that it should be attended by the several Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

No. 657.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 36. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 15, 1878.*

I AM privately informed that Admiral Popow and Captain Baronoff left to-day for the South, probably for Odessa. The latter, I am told, has lately given a plan to the Emperor for the destruction of the English fleet.

Torpedo-boats have been lately sent to Odessa and Danube.

No. 658.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 37. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 15, 1878.*

IN the course of conversation this morning, Prince Gortchakow stated to me that on Porte appealing to Mr. Layard, he had advised resistance to the entry of the Russian troops into Constantinople. I said to him that I could not believe this report, and attributed it to malevolence.

Might be desirable to give a formal denial to Count Schouvaloff.

No. 659.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 217.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 15, 1878, 9·15 A.M.*

ADMIRAL, with four iron-clads, has arrived and anchored at Prince's Island.

No. 660.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, February 15, 12·16 A.M.*

I AM told that the German Government would object to Dresden or any other German capital, for the proposed Conference, but that they would agree to Baden, if acceptable to Austria and the other Powers. Prince Bismarck is expected in Berlin.

No. 661.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.[*]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 15, 1878, 5·5 P.M.*

I HAVE given to-day to Count Schouvaloff the following Memorandum:—

"The attention of Her Majesty's Government having been directed to the accumulation of Russian troops in the neighbourhood of Kavak, they feel it to be only in accordance with the frank and friendly exchange of communications which they have hitherto endeavoured to maintain with the Russian Government, to point out that the condition of the Peninsula of Gallipoli and of the Straits has acquired in their view an additional importance from the presence in the Sea of Marmora of the ships of the British fleet.

"They could not but regard any attempt on the part of Russia to occupy the Peninsula or the forts of the Dardanelles as an act which, as it would be inconsistent with the known conditions of the armistice, and unnecessary for any strategic purpose connected with the war, must be designed to interfere with the navigation of the Straits, and, therefore, a direct breach of the conditions on which the attitude hitherto maintained by Great Britain has depended."

[*] Sent also to other Embassies.

No. 662.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 15, 1878, 5·30 P.M.*

ASCERTAIN strength of Russian forces in Roumania, and places where it is posted; report by telegraph.

No. 663.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 15, 1878, 5·30 P.M.*

ADMIRAL HORNBY has been desired to communicate to you the instructions now being sent to him as to proceedings at Gallipoli Peninsula.

You should concert with him how far it may be desirable that you should inform the Porte.

You may also inform the Porte, if you and the Admiral consider it desirable, of the Memorandum given by me to-day to Count Schouvaloff.

No. 664.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 145.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 15, 1878.*

AT an interview which I had with the Russian Ambassador this afternoon I placed in his Excellency's hands a Memorandum containing a statement to the following effect:—

That the attention of Her Majesty's Government having been directed to the accumulation of Russian troops in the neighbourhood of Kavak, they feel it to be only in accordance with the frank and friendly exchange of communications which they have hitherto endeavoured to maintain with the Russian Government, to point out that the condition of the Peninsula of Gallipoli and of the Straits has acquired in their view an additional importance from the presence in the Sea of Marmora of the ships of the British fleet. They could not but regard any attempt on the part of Russia to occupy the Peninsula or the forts of the Dardanelles as an act which, as it would be inconsistent with the known conditions of the armistice and unnecessary for any strategic purpose connected with the war, must be designed to interfere with the navigation of the Straits, and therefore a direct breach of the conditions on which the attitude hitherto maintained by Great Britian has depended.

His Excellency promised to bring this communication to the knowledge of his Government without delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 665.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.[*]

(No. 126.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 15, 1878.*

I INCLOSE to your Excellency copy of a Memorandum which I gave to-day to Count Schouvaloff, expressing the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the effect which would be produced upon the relations of the two countries by an attempt on the part of Russia to occupy the Peninsula of Gallipoli or the Dardanelles.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

---

[*] An identic despatch was addressed to Lord Odo Russell.

No. 666.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

(No. 10.)
Foreign Office, February 15, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to instruct you to ascertain the strength of the Russian forces now in Roumania and the places where they are posted.

You will report to me the result of your inquiries by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 667.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 28.)
Foreign Office, February 15, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of two despatches communicated to me by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires,* who called upon me to-day to learn whether Her Majesty's Government had any opinion to express upon them.

I told him that I had little to add to the reply which Her Majesty's Government had returned to the telegraphic despatches of his Government. I did not feel authorized to say anything on the subject of the Conference, but I could assure him that so far as it lay in the power of Her Majesty's Government his Government might rely on the interests of the Greek population of the Turkish Provinces having a fair hearing.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 668.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Foreign Office, February 15, 1878.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, inclosing copies of reports which his Excellency had received from the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," relative to the expenses incurred in the relief of fugitives at Bourgas; and I am to request you to call their Lordships' attention to Mr. Layard's recommendation that Commander Hamond's proceedings should be approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 669.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received February 15.)

(Secret.)
Admiralty, February 15, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Earl of Derby, the accompanying copies of telegrams received from Vice-Admiral Hornby.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

---

* Nos. 660 and 661.

Inclosure 1 in No. 669.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)
February 13, 1878.

SAILED from Besika Bay 12 A.M. Very thick, north-east gale, snow-storm. At the Narrows "Alexandra" got on shore. Now at anchor under Nagara Point.

Shall not go beyond Gallipoli to-morrow unless it moderates. Passed forts under protest. Observed "Raleigh" on shore on Rabbit Island. Sent "Hotspur" and "Ruby" to her assistance.

Inclosure 2 in No. 669.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)
February 14, 1878

CAPTAIN FIFE informs me that the Russians are in force near Kavak, twelve miles from Boulair. They may have 50,000 men there to-morrow evening. Are believed to have a feasible plan to cross the Gulf of Zeros, and land in the rear of Boulair lines, while they attack in front. I recommend all ships at Besika Bay, except one, be removed to Zeros with me to oppose any attack arising on this peninsula, and that Rear-Admiral Commerell assist to defend Boulair lines, and, if they are in considerable force, to destroy heavy guns in evacuating forts of Dardanelles. Also that I should return immediately eastward end of Marmora.

Rear-Admiral remains at Gallipoli with "Agincourt" and "Swiftsure." I proceed immediately to Prince's Island. Communication with me Constantinople by "Salamis."

No. 670.

The Earl of Derby to M. Gennadius.

(Confidential.)
M. le Chargé d'Affaires,
Foreign Office, February 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter marked Confidential, of the 13th instant, inquiring whether your Government would receive the approval and moral support of Her Majesty's Government in ordering Greek ships of war to proceed to Constantinople; and I have to state to you, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government readily acknowledge the friendly action of your Government in making this inquiry; and, having given it the fullest consideration, are unable to advise the Greek Government at the present moment to take this step, which would, in their opinion, only add to the complications of the existing situation, and might, in the present state of the relations between the Greek and Turkish Governments, serve to provoke an outbreak of feeling which might have disastrous results.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 671.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 237. Secret.)
Foreign Office, February 15, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith, a copy of the instructions sent this day by telegraph to Admiral Hornby with regard to the protection of the Peninsula of Gallipoli in the event of an attempt to land Russian troops there.

The Admiral has been instructed to communicate with you on the subject of these instructions, and you should concert with him as to how far it may be desirable to make them known to the Porte

Your Excellency may also, if you and the Admiral consider it to be desirable, inform the Porte of the Memorandum given by me to-day to the Russian Ambassador, of which a copy is inclosed in my despatch to your Excellency No. 245 of this day's date.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure in No. 671.

Instructions to Admiral Hornby and Senior Officer at Besika, so far as relates to him.—(Sent by Telegraph, February 16, 1878.)

ALL ships but one are to go from Besika Bay to Gulf of Xeros, with orders to watch Russian troops, and if they observe preparations for embarkation with a view to landing on the Peninsula of Gallipoli, they are to warn Russian Commander that they have orders to prevent such landing, and they are to oppose it by force if it is persevered in.

Rear-Admiral Commerell is not to assist in defending Bulair lines. If they are taken or yielded, he is to do everything in his power to destroy the heavy guns in the forts on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

If Rear-Admiral Commerell observes Russian troops embarking with the intention of landing in the rear of Bulair, he is to warn the Russian Commander that he has orders to prevent such landing, and he is to oppose it by force if necessary. Don't leave Prince's Island yourself, unless you consider it absolutely necessary.

In any event one or two ships are to be left there.

(Signed) W. H. SMITH.

February 15, 1878.

No. 672.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 82.)

Athens, February 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM glad to be able to inform your Lordship that orders have been this day sent to the Greek forces not to advance any further into the province of Thessaly.

The troops are said to be in the neighbourhood of Domoco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 673.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 83. Confidential.)

Athens, February 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Tissot, the French Minister, begged me yesterday to come to his house, and there I met the Russian, Italian, and Austrian Ministers, and the German Chargé d'Affaires. M. Tissot read to us a telegram which he had received from his Government expressing disapproval at the Greek Government having sent troops into Turkey—an act constituting a *casus belli*, and recommending that they should recall their troops.

M. Tissot had in the morning spoken in this sense to the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs.

While we were at M. Tissot's house M. Delyanni called and announced to us that orders had been sent to General Loutzo to remain where he was with his troops and not to advance further into Thessaly. We expressed to him our satisfaction at this intelligence, and I asked him where the Greek troops were. His Excellency replied that they were near to Domaco.

I should also mention to your Lordship that Count Maffei, the Italian Minister, read to M. Delyanni at M. Tissot's house a telegram which he had received from his Government likewise expressing disapproval of the action of the Greek Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 674.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 84. Confidential.)

Athens, February 6, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 83 of to-day's date, reporting to your Lordship a meeting at M. Tissot's house of the Representatives of the Great Powers, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. de Soubaroff, the Russian Minister, mentioned that the Greek Government had applied to the Russian Government to have their troops and the eventual insurgents ("les insurgés éventuels") included in an armistice, and that the Russian Government had replied that as the Greeks were not belligerents, there could be no question of including them in an armistice.

The Articles mentioned in my despatch No. 62 of 31st ultimo, and which are attributed to M. Deligeorges, late Minister of Finance, state that the Greek Government had applied to the Russian Government to be included in an armistice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 675.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 85. Confidential.)

Athens, February 6, 1878.

My Lord,

IT is strongly suspected, and has been even stated to me as a fact, that the Greek Government was aware on the 1st instant that the bases of peace and armistice had been, or were on the point of being signed, and that fearing a repetition of the demonstrations which took place at Athens on the 26th and 27th of last month, they gave orders during the night of the 1st instant to the troops at Lania to cross the frontiers into Turkey, which they did on the 2nd instant.

I was struck on Monday last by M. Delyanni saying to me that the Government did not know "officially" of the signature of the preliminaries of peace when it gave orders to General Soutzo to advance into Thessaly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 676.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 87.)

Athens, February 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Minister for Foreign Affairs has formally declared, in the name of His Majesty's Government, that trusting in the assurances given by the Representatives of the Great Powers, orders have, in accordance with the advice of the Great Powers, been issued this evening for the withdrawal of the Greek troops from the Turkish territory.

His Majesty the King and the Government merit support for having taken this step—a step which is likely to be unpopular with the people and the army.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 677.

Mr Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 88.)

Athens, February 7, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that on the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 5th instant, which reached me yesterday morning, instructing me to join my French colleague in remonstrating against the invasion of Turkish territory by a Greek force, and

in urging the Greek Government to recall their troops at once, I called upon M. Tissot and showed him my orders.

M. Tissot had already acted upon his instructions, but I asked him if he would accompany me to M. Delyanni, with whom I had requested to have an interview, explaining to him that I thought my representations would have more weight if he would kindly do so.

M. Tissot at once complied with my request, and we went together to M. Delyanni's house, where we found Count Dubsky, the Austrian Minister.

I explained to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the nature of my orders, and I read to him in French translation your Lordship's telegram, and M. Tissot and I urged upon him in the most formal manner the necessity of at once giving orders for the withdrawal of the Greek troops. We pointed out to him the great dangers to which Greece was exposed, and added that if the request we made was not complied with and Greece further complicated the difficulties already existing in the East of Europe, she run the risk of alienating the sympathies of those Powers who wished her well.

Count Dubsky seconded us in our remarks, and pointed out with much force the inability of Greece to resist an attack under present circumstances from Turkey.

M. Delyanni said he would consult his colleagues and take the orders of His Majesty the King and give us an answer later, and it was agreed that M. Tissot, Count Dubsky, and I, and the other Representatives of the Great Powers, should meet at M. de Labouroff's house at the hour which would be convenient to M. Delyanni to give a reply to our representations.

M. Labouroff was good enough to call upon me in the evening to beg me to be at the Russian Legation at 8 o'clock, at which hour the Minister for Foreign Affairs had announced to him that he could give an answer to the request which had been preferred to him in the course of the day. I accordingly went to the Russian Legation at the hour indicated, and there met the French, the Austrian, and the Italian Ministers, and the German Chargé d'Affaires.

Your Lordship having instructed me to renew certain assurances, contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 34, Confidential, of the 2nd July last, and which assurances I had read to M. Delyanni at the interview I had had with him in the daytime, and which he had asked me to give him in writing, but which I had refused then on the ground that I had not your Lordship's authority to do so, I begged M. Tissot to give me his advice as to whether he thought I might, under the circumstances, comply with M. Delyanni's request.

I felt that it would be most essential for the Government if it complied with our advice to be able to show the Chamber of Deputies and the people that the Government of Her Majesty was not unmindful of the interests of the Hellenic race in Turkey.

M. Tissot said that if he were in my place he would, considering the gravity of the situation, take the responsibility upon himself and act as I had suggested. I accordingly wrote out and gave to M. Delyanni, in French translation—copy of which I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship—the substance of the concluding portions of your Lordship's telegram, having previously read it aloud to the Representatives of foreign Powers present.

M. Delyanni thanked me very much, and then proceeded to state formally, in the name of the King's Government, that the Government, feeling sure that the interests of the Greek race in the provinces of Turkey would be taken into consideration by the Great Powers in a spirit of humanity and of justice, had given orders that the Greek troops should withdraw from the Turkish territory.

The Representatives of the foreign Governments present assured M. Delyanni that the welfare of the Christian populations in the Hellenic provinces of the Turkish Empire should be taken into consideration, and thanked his Excellency for his communication, at the same time congratulating him upon the wise determination come to by the King's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 677.

Extract from the Earl of Derby's Instructions to Mr. Wyndham, dated the 5th February, received and given to M. Delyanni on the 6th February, 1878.

TOUT en me donnant ordre de m'associer aux représentations faites par son Excellence le Ministre de France, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine me charge de renouveler les assurances renfermées dans la dépêche adressée à Mr. Stuart en date du 2 Juillet dernier, par laquelle le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté donne l'assurance qu'il fera son possible, quand le moment en sera venu pour prendre en considération le règlement des questions résultant de la guerre, pour assurer à la population Grecque des provinces Ottomanes toutes les réformes et avantages administratifs ("any administrative reforms or advantages") qui pourront être concédés à la population Chrétienne d'une race autre que la race Hellénique.

No. 678.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 89. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 7, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 88 of to-day's date, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that when I had communicated my instruction to the Minister for Foreign Affairs I told him that information which had reached me that day led me to suppose that the Greek Government was going on with its armaments, that I knew that bands were leaving, or were about to leave, for Turkey, and that this state of affairs was hardly consistent with the assurance that he had given the day before that the Greek army was not to advance further into Thessaly.

M. Delyanni endeavoured to excuse the Government by saying that they could not prevent the action of private individuals, and that the formation of some corps of chasseurs had nothing to do with the movements of General Soutzo.

Both M. Tissot and I replied very energetically to the excuses which M. Delyanni made, and which we told him were quite inadmissible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 679.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 90. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 7, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 88 and 89 of to-day's date, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that at the meeting of the Representatives of the Great Powers which took place yesterday evening, occasion was taken to bring to the notice of M. Delyanni, in a friendly and unofficial manner, the great importance of putting a stop to the departure of bands from Greece with motives inimical to the Government of the Porte.

The French Minister, in particular, took the lead in urging the necessity of a stop being put to their departure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 680.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 91.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have duly conveyed to the Greek Government, in compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's

telegram of yesterday's date, which reached me to-day, the assurances given by Her Majesty's Government as to the populations of the Greek Provinces of Turkey.

M. Delyanni read me a telegram which he had received from M. Gennadius, and which appeared to me to give accurately the sense of the communication which your Lordship informs me you have made to that gentleman on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 681.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 92. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 7, 1878.*

I HAVE learnt from different very reliable sources that M. de Labouroff, the Russian Minister at this Court, has lately urged the Greek Government to invade Turkish territory, and that he has latterly been assuring the Government that the negotiations would last some time longer, and that if the Greek Government did engage in hostilities the Greek troops would be included in the armistice. The Greek Government may very possibly not have known that the bases of peace and armistice had been signed, as some persons suspect they did, when they gave the orders that General Loutzo was to advance, and that they were in reality misled by information given to them by M. de Labouroff, who may himself not have known, or have been misinformed, as to when the armistice was to be signed.

I have also been informed that His Majesty the King has received a telegram from the Grand Duke Nicholas assuring His Majesty that he would not allow the Turks to harm Greece, and M. de Labouroff is reported to have stated openly that the Russian forces would not permit the Turkish fleet to bombard her sea-coast towns.

M. de Labouroff, I am told, has also given the Greeks to understand that the question of the cession of Crete to Greece will be raised in the Conference, and I have heard the opinion expressed that Russia will do all she can to prevent the Greeks getting any accession of territory on her northern frontiers, but that she will advocate the cession of Crete, as she thinks that that will not interfere with Slav interests, and also that England will oppose it, and will consequently become unpopular and lose influence with the Greeks.

M. Delyanni read to me very confidentially to-day a portion of a despatch from the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in St. Petersburgh, in which he reports that the Russian Government was opposed to any movement on the part of the Greeks. This may have been the officially expressed wish, but nevertheless, for some motive the Russian Minister here has without doubt lately left no stone unturned to induce the Greeks to enter upon hostilities with Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 682.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 93.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 8, 1878.*

ON the receipt this morning of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday's date, informing me of the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government had learnt that the Greek Government had ordered its troops to withdraw from Turkish territory, I at once wrote to M. Delyanni to inform him of the nature of your Lordship's communication to me.

I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of the letter which I addressed to M. Delyanni.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 682.

Mr. Wyndham to M. Delyanni.

M. le Ministre, *Athènes, le 8 Février, 1878.*

JE m'empresse de porter à votre connaissance que Lord Derby, par une dépêche télégraphique en date d'hier soir, et qui m'est parvenue ce matin, m'exprime le grand plaisir que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine a éprouvé en apprenant la nouvelle que le Gouvernement Hellénique avait donné ordre à ses troupes de se retirer du territoire Ottoman.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 683.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 94.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 8, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 89 and 90 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at the Piræus, respecting the departure of armed bands from that port on board steamers of the Greek Steam Navigation Company.

Your Lordship will observe that the "Byzantium" left the Piræus last night, so that although the Government state that they have ordered their troops to withdraw from Turkish territory, they still appear to be meditating hostilities with Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 683.

Consul Merlin to Mr. Wyndham.

My dear Mr. Wyndham, *The Piræus, February 7, 1878.*

TWO of the Greek Steam Navigation Company's vessels, the "Iris" and "Byzantium," left the Piræus last night with volunteers, I am told.

The "Iris," which had been taking in stores all yesterday, consisting of ammunition, small arms, &c., is reported to have taken about 400 volunteers, under the command of Nicolaïdes (Lieutenant of Artillery and Deputy for Eleusis), and, it is said, left for Krivossara and Acarnania.

The "Byzantium" took about 350 men for Thessaly, but returned here about 3 A.M., owing, it is reported, to her boilers being damaged.

The volunteers embarked on board those vessels about 10 o'clock last night, cheering and firing shots in the air. Their friends accompanied them, shouting and encouraging them, so that there was not even the slightest attempt at concealing their departure.

I saw a number of these volunteers yesterday. There are a great many fine looking men amongst them; about 400 of them are said to have come here from Acarnania. They were all dressed alike, with new clothes and capotes, and wore the same cap as that of the National Guard, only, instead of the crown on it, a cross between two laurel sprigs is embroidered on the front of the cap in yellow. It is said they are all armed with Chassepôt rifles. I understand that Captain Mitzo's band which left Athens the other day, and is said to be about 1,000 strong, have not got beyond Daphne, where they are living at free quarters on the flocks in that neighbourhood, roasting sheep and lambs, and alarming the unfortunate peasants.

If they act in this manner within six miles of Athens, what will they not do to the Christians in Thessaly and Epirus, should they ever reach there?

It was reported in Athens to-day that the "Iris" had returned by order of the Government, but she has not come into the Piræus or Salamis, as far as I can ascertain.

Enclosed is a letter I have received from Lieutenant-Commander Doxat, of Her Majesty's ship "Wizard," about the movements of the Greek steamers. The nights now are very dark, and it is very difficult to obtain reliable information about what is passing, as nothing can be elicited from the Greek authorities.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) C. MERLIN.

P.S. *Athens, February* 8.—I have just seen Lieutenant-Commander Doxót, who informs me that the "Byzantium" left at 12·30 last night with the volunteers, which were re-embarked on board her. Her destination is said to be Stelida.

C. M.

No. 684.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 196.) *St. Petersburgh, February* 11, 1878.

My Lord,

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of February 8th, I addressed on the 9th instant a note, of which a copy is inclosed, to Prince Gortchakow, informing his Highness that Her Majesty's Government have judged it necessary to order a detachment of the British fleet to proceed to Constantinople for the protection of British life and property.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 684.

Lord A. Loftus to Prince Gortchakow.

St. Petersburgh, February 9, 1878.

Mon Prince,

I AM instructed by the Earl of Derby to inform your Highness that Her Majesty's Government, in consequence of information received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, have judged it necessary to order a detachment of the British fleet to proceed to Constantinople for the protection of British life and property.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. LOFTUS.

No. 685.

Vice-Consul Bonham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 7. Political.) *Jassy, February* 10, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the news of the demand of Russia that Roumania should cede Bessarabia to her has created a widespread feeling of consternation and anger in this town, where the Russians were not generally popular before, and now the feeling against them will be intensified greatly.

The moment chosen to make such a demand was the more unpropitious, since the people here were exulting over the prospect of peace, and of having the independence of their country recognized by the European Powers, and that Roumania would at least take a place amongst the minor States of Europe: moreover, they considered that their army had rendered important services to the Russians at Plevna at a most critical moment, which had not been duly recognized; this had given rise to a very jealous feeling and to mutual distrust.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. W. BONHAM.

No. 686.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received February* 16.)

Admiralty, February 15, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the accompanying copy of a

telegram received this day from Rear-Admiral Commerell, and dated Gallipoli, 15th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 686.

Rear-Admiral Commerell to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Gallipoli, February* 15, 1878, 11·55 A.M.

I VISITED Gallipoli lines to-day with permission of Suleiman Pasha; was not favourably impressed with the state of defences. Advanced post of Russians at Kadikoi in sight of Bulair, from which place I am of opinion that determined attack in force would carry Turkish position.

Am informed positively that large quantity of munitions are being collected at Kadikoi. Rumour "Raleigh" still aground. No official information since fleet parted company.

No. 687.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received February* 16.)

(Confidential.) *Admiralty, February* 16, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Derby, that the following telegram has this day been received from the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean station, dated at Pera, 15th February, 9·47 P.M., viz.:—

"Your telegraphic communication No. 21 has been received. With concurrence of Ambassador I am going to Mundania until he has received reply from Lord Derby."

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 688.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha:—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February* 16.)

Constantinople, le 16 Février, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

LES Grecs, ayant de nouveau envahi le pays, portent depuis hier leurs dévastations jusqu'à Arta. Notre confiance dans les communications précédentes nous laisse en ce moment sous une lourde responsabilité.

No. 689.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 34.) *St. Petersburgh, February* 15, 1878, 2 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I COMMUNICATED to Prince Gortchakow this morning substance of your telegram of 13th instant, and left Memorandum of it in his hands. Prince Gortchakow could not admit argument establishing difference between entry of fleet and Russian army. He referred to Sultan's telegrams to the Queen and Emperor. He denies that there existed any cause of danger to authorize presence of the fleet in violation of Treaty and in opposition to Sultan's wish, and considers that it is an act of political demonstration against Russia. I endeavoured to correct his Highness' opinions, assuring him that the measure was simply an act of duty to protect British life and property, and cover responsibility of Her Majesty's Government, but, I fear, with little success. I referred to question of Gallipoli in the sense of your telegram of the 13th, saying that your Lordship could not answer for consequences of any movement of troops towards Gallipoli. His Highness curtly replied that he would take no further engagement, or give any more

assurances in regard to this subject. His Highness considers present position very grave. He was calm and anxious, but very determined.

No. 690.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, February* 15, 1878, 2 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday a number of seamen, under twelve officers, have very recently gone to Danube from here to nine monitors, said to be ceded under the armistice. Others went for the same purpose from Cronstadt, and some left for England to bring commercial shipping now there. Troops are said to be concentrating on Austrian frontier and in Bessarabia. I hear that Colonel Shevzoff, who built Odessa batteries, is ordered to build mole here for receiving soldiers, who are to be conveyed in Turkish iron-clads.

No. 691.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 15, 1878, 5·30 P.M.

WITH reference to Sir A. Paget's telegram of yesterday, I believe Prime Minister is in error in supposing that the instructions to Count Zichy were to apply for Firman for entry of Austrian ships of war only "in case of need."

The instructions, as I informed your Lordship, were absolute, but on receiving them Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople, instead of executing them, represented to his Government that the application would probably be refused.

He was told that he must, nevertheless, execute the orders, and he then did so.

The answer of the Porte is not considered here a final refusal.

No. 692.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 15, 1878, 6 P.M.

M. DE NOVIKOW, in speaking to-day to Baron Orczy, spoke as if the fact of our ships having anchored at Prince's Islands without going into the Bosphorus might be taken into consideration by his Government in regard to their own decisions. He also said that if the ships of all other Powers had come in at the same time, his Government would not have seen it in the same light as the step taken by Great Britain alone. I have very strongly urged the Austrian Government to send up their ships at once, which they could do without the slightest risk now that ours have been allowed to pass. I informed them that at Constantinople the Russians were representing Austria as being in perfect understanding with them, and satisfied with conditions of peace. Austria, by not letting her ships be seen with ours, was assisting Russia to make England appear to be isolated, and would encourage the Porte to enter into a close alliance with Russia.

No. 693.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 218.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 15, 1878, 4·30 P.M.

DRS. SMITH, Goodrich, and Denton were left in Russian hands at Stringli on 12th January, and nothing has been seen or heard of them since. The three doctors who were ill-treated were Leslie, Neville, and Kirkpatrick. Leslie was too ill to leave for England last week; he went on Wednesday. Details sent to you in my despatch No. 194.

No. 694.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 219.)
(Telegraphic) *Constantinople, February* 15, 1878, 8 P.M.

I HAVE just seen Sultan at his request. His Majesty had received telegram from the Emperor of Russia stating that "notwithstanding protest of the Sultan, English fleet had passed through Dardanelles and had anchored at Prince's Islands, Sultan will, in justice admit that the temporary entry of a part of Emperor's troops is inevitable."

Sultan earnestly begged me to remove Her Majesty's ships from Constantinople. All I could consent to, after having consulted with Admiral, was that they should go to Moudania, where he will be in telegraphic communication with me. Sultan has answered, therefore, admitting the Emperor's statement of entry of British ships, but stating that as he had not yet received answer from the Queen, he considered it as merely temporary. Sultan promises to let Emperor know as soon as answer reaches him, in order that they may consult together as to consequent measures, and states that in the meantime English Admiral has proceeded to a much more distant anchorage. Sultan, therefore, hopes that Emperor will suspend step he contemplates. Sultan entreats Her Majesty's Government to endeavour to obtain assent of the Emperor to this arrangement, and to prevent entry of Russian troops into the capital.

No. 695.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 220.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 15, 1878, 8 P.M.

I HAVE brought Greek statements as to state of Thessaly to the notice of Porte. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs declares most positively that they are unfounded, and made to justify Greek invasion, but has promised me to give orders at once by telegraph to the authorities to remove irregulars and to protect Christians. I have telegraphed to Mr. Longworth for information as to state of the provinces.

No. 696.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 221.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 16, 1878.

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS has communicated to Safvet Pasha telegram from Emperor to the effect that, as Her Majesty's Government on information received from me that the Christians of Constantinople are in danger, has ordered part of the British fleet to proceed to Constantinople to protect British subjects; it is necessary to come to an understanding with the Turkish Plenipotentiaries for the entry of the Russian troops into Constantinople for the same object. His Imperial Majesty added that it was desirable that this entry should be "à l'amiable"; but if the Plenipotentiaries opposed it, the Grand Duke should be ready to occupy Constantinople by force.

I beg to state that I have never given Her Majesty's Government to understand that the Christians were in danger now that the armistice had been concluded. It is rather the Mahommedans who require protection in case of entry of Russian troops.

No. 697.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 221 T. Most Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 15, 1878.

SULTAN has personally requested me to state to Her Majesty's Government that if England will come to his assistance with men (?), money, or in any other way, he would still be ready to defend his capital against the Russians; that he has troops and guns left which would enable him to do so effectually with such assistance. But without help he cannot do anything, as he has no money, and the resources of his country are exhausted. He renewed his offer of placing his fleet at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government. He

earnestly asks for an immediate answer. I only undertook to transmit this message without giving him the least reason to hope that he could expect any help from England.

No. 698.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 222.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 15, 1878.*

PRIME MINISTER declares that it is not true that irregular troops are committing excesses on Christians in Thessaly, but that the Greek invaders are murdering those Christians who will not join them, and destroying their villages. His Highness further states that Greek troops are still crossing the frontiers, and are advancing upon Arta. He is going to dispatch an iron-clad with troops there to-day, and he thinks of giving Greek Minister his passports immediately. He promises that every effort will be made to prevent any excesses on the part of irregulars, but if they are attacked they must defend themselves, and if the Greek Government persist in sending armed bands over the frontier, irregulars must be employed to meet them.

No. 699.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 223. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 16, 1878, 1·30 P.M.*

PRIME MINISTER informs me that at Conference with the Turkish Plenipotentiaries at Adrianople yesterday the Russian Plenipotentiary insisted that the Mussulmans who had left territories comprised in new Bulgarian State should not return, and that endeavours should be made to remove the whole Mahommedan population. I have learnt from a secret source that the demands now being made by Russia are exceedingly hard. The Servians, his Highness states (?), are everywhere driving out Mussulmans and committing the greatest outrages upon them. I hope to get authentic accounts on this subject from Colonel Synge. He further tells me that he has heard from one of the Patriarchs here that Prince Reuss had a conference two nights ago with some of the leading Greeks and Armenians, and that the object of it was to prepare a movement here which is to lead to the expulsion of the Mahommedan population from the city. Of course I cannot answer for the truth of this; I can only repeat what was told me. But I am convinced that Russia has all along been resolved to occupy Constantinople, and that if the arrival of our ships had not furnished a pretext for it something else would.

No. 700.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 224.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 16, 1878, 1·15 P.M.*

I COMMUNICATED to the Sultan yesterday, according to your Lordship's instructions, the substance of your telegram of the 14th instant, Secret.

No. 701.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 225. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 16, 1878, 1·30 P.M.*

MINISTER at Rome states that Prince Bismarck has prevailed upon Italian Government not to send ships to Constantinople, and that Italy will now go entirely with Russia and Germany. This correspondence with the attitude of Italian Minister here.

No. 702.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 227.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 16, 1878.*

KEMBALL telegraphs on the 14th that Governor of Erzeroum still awaits reply to request to Russia for leave for transport required to pass into Erzeroum; unofficial report states that Russians will require boundary as far as Yeni-Keui beyond Mamakhatoun as far as Kop and Ispira; nothing said officially or unofficially about Batoum. Yesterday he telegraphed that aide-de-camp from Ismail Pasha arrived previous evening. General Melikoff demands line of demarcation from Arli Gol on Persian frontier following the range comprising Alisherd as far as Kililoe; thence along the line previously reported, and then by Massal to ridge on right bank of Choralesu, and the downs to junction with Olti river. Ismail Pasha demurs to this demand, and Melikoff will refer to joint commission at Erzeroum after evacuation.

No. 703.

Vice-Consul Odoni to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Gallipoli, February 15, 1878.*

"ALEXANDRA," "Achilles," "Sultan," "Téméraire," and "Salamis" at Prince's Island. "Flamingo," "Antelope," "Torch," "Cockatrice," in Bosphorus or Black Sea. "Agincourt," with Rear-Admiral on board, and "Swiftsure" at Gallipoli. "Cygnet" expected here; "Raleigh" ashore on Rabit Island. "Hotspur," "Ruby," and, according to rumour, "Devastation" at Besika, assisting to get her off.

No. 704.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, February 16, 1878.*

GREAT indignation being expressed here by the native Christians and foreigners at the alleged ( ) of the troops in Mirdicia.

Authorities say that they have no knowledge of reported destruction of Orosel, and a number of other villages; 75 hostages, and some prisoners, have been brought here this afternoon.

No. 705.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, February 16, 1878.*

I HEAR on good authority that 2,000 seamen, exclusive of officers, from the Baltic, are in Roumania, where they are to remain till further orders. It is thought that they must be for the Turkish fleets at Constantinople and the Danube.

No. 706.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16, 7 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February 16, 1878, 4·15 P.M.*

THE Council of Ministers discussed last night question of sending ships to Constantinople. M. Depretis informs me that Italian Government thinks that it would be desirable to do so, but cannot take resolution in this sense until they know what answer has been given to Austrian demand for a Firman, and until they have received replies to communications they have made to other Governments on this subject. Neither they nor Austrian Ambassador here have any confirmation of refusal of Firman for Austrian ships reported by Mr. Layard. Last news from Count Corti, dated three days

ago, says that Porte had stated that it reserved its reply till the question with England had been settled. M. Depretis thinks that France, also Germany, would send ships if Firman were granted.

No. 707.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Private.) *Berlin, February 16, 1878.*

IN reply to private letter of 12th instant, I feel certain that the German Government will adhere to a policy of strict neutrality in the event of a war between England and Russia.

Extract from Private Letter to Lord Odo Russell, to which the above refers.

February 12, 1878.

The most important question just now is to know what Bismarck thinks of the situation. If the Conference ends in hopeless divergence of views, which is possible, what then? Will he back up Austria in trying to modify the Russian plans, or Russia in enforcing them? Till we hear some ideas on this point we are in the dark as to future probabilities. Can you give us any light?

No. 708.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 16, 1878, 4·10 P.M.*

THE Queen has made the following reply to the message of His Majesty the Sultan:—

"I have received your Majesty's telegram dated the 12th instant, and communicated to me on the following day.

"I deeply regret your anxieties and troubles.

"It did not reach me until after the detachment of the fleet had entered the Dardanelles.

"My Government have explained to the Emperor of Russia the reasons for which it has been considered necessary to send these vessels to Constantinople, and have stated that they cannot acknowledge that the despatch of ships for the purpose indicated justifies the entry of Russian troops into that city."

A French version has been given to Musurus Pasha to telegraph to the Sultan.

No. 709.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Embassies.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 16, 1878, 4·30 P.M.*

STATE to Government to which you are accredited that the immediate assembling of the Conference seems to Her Majesty's Government to promise the only satisfactory issue from the present political complications, and urge that all the neutral Powers should join without delay in pressing on the Russian Government that it should be forthwith convened.

No. 710.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 16, 1878, 6 P.M.*

YOU may contradict the statement that Mr. Layard has given any advice to the Porte as to opposing entry of Russian troops into Constantinople, but be careful in doing so not to convey any idea that Her Majesty's Government countenance their entering.

No. 711.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 16, 1878, 6·40 P.M.*

IN conversation to-day with Count Schouvaloff respecting the Dardanelles, I explained clearly to his Excellency that the territory which we desired should be left absolutely free from Russian occupation was the whole of the peninsula protected by the lines of Bulair.

I told his Excellency of the removal of the fleet to Mondania Bay, but said it was decided without orders from home by the Admiral, in exercise of his discretionary powers.

No. 712.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(Secret.) *Foreign Office, February 16, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

FROM a conversation with Russian Ambassador to-day I am led to believe that an attempt is being made by the Emperor of Germany to bring about improved relations between Austria and Russia. Are you aware of any step taken in this sense, and if so, what is the result?

No. 713.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.[a]

(No. 131.) *Foreign Office, February 16, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE to request your Excellency to state to the French Government that the immediate assembly of the Conference seems to Her Majesty's Government to promise the only satisfactory issue from the present political complications, and to urge that all the neutral Powers should join without delay in pressing on the Russian Government that it should be forthwith convened.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 714.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 83. Secret.) *Foreign Office, February 16, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE had to-day a conversation with Count Schouvaloff, which leads me to believe that the Emperor of Germany is endeavouring to improve the existing relations between the Russian and Austrian Governments. I should wish your Excellency to report to me at once whether you are aware of any step in this sense having been taken by the Emperor, and, if the attempt has been made, whether you have been able to ascertain what has been the result of it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

---

[a] Similar despatches were addressed to Sir A. Paget, Sir H. Elliot, and Lord Odo Russell.

No. 715.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 147.)
Foreign Office, February 16, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that you may contradict the statement that Mr. Layard has given any advice to the Porte as to opposing the entry of the Russian troops into Constantinople, but your Excellency will be careful in doing so not to convey any idea that Her Majesty's Government countenance their entering the city.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 716.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 150. Most Confidential.)
Foreign Office, February 16, 1878.

My Lord,

IN conversation with the Russian Ambassador to-day his Excellency informed me that an answer had been received by him from Prince Gortchakow on the subject of Gallipoli, which he (Count Schouvaloff) considered as satisfactory, but which was in some respects vague, and he had in consequence telegraphed for fuller explanations. He hoped to bring me the communication on Monday morning.

Some conversation ensuing on this point, I explained clearly to his Excellency that the territory which we desired should be left absolutely free from Russian occupation was the whole of the peninsula protected by the lines of Bulair. I took an opportunity of informing his Excellency of the removal of the fleet to Moudania Bay, explaining at the same time that this step had been taken without orders from home, and in the exercise by the Admiral of the discretionary powers left to him.

Count Schouvaloff talked at some length and earnestly on the absence of any desire on the part of Russia to go to war with England. He dwelt on the financial embarrassments of his own Government and the serious nature of the struggle which would ensue if once it were allowed to begin.

I thought it advisable to state to his Excellency my conviction, but without assigning any reason, that in the event of a rupture the Government of Austria would be ready to act with that of England.

This view of the case his Excellency neither admitted nor denied, but he fully acknowledged the fact that a coolness had occurred between the Courts of St. Petersburgh and Vienna since the publication of the bases of peace. He mentioned that there were two points on which Count Andrassy showed no signs of giving way—namely, the occupation of Bulgaria by Russian troops and the conformation of the new Bulgarian State. He said, however, that an effort was being made by the Emperor William to bring about an understanding, of which he did not yet know the result.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 717.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 239.)
Foreign Office, February 16, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of the reply which Her Majesty the Queen has made to the message of His Majesty the Sultan; and I have to inform you that I have given a French version to Musurus Pasha in order that it may be sent by telegraph to the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 718.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. . Most Confidential.)
Foreign Office, February 16, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Turkish Ambassador put to me this afternoon the question he had been instructed to ask me, as to the attitude which Her Majesty's Government intended to assume when sending their ships into Turkish waters. Had they come, he asked, as friends and allies of Turkey, or simply as the vessels of a neutral Power?

I told his Excellency that so long as a state of war continued to which we were not parties we retained the position of neutrality which we had assumed throughout, and could not, therefore, claim to hold the position of allies. On the other hand, his Excellency and the Sultan's advisers were as well aware as I was of the critical nature of the circumstances through which we were passing, and however desirous Her Majesty's Government might be of remaining at peace, we might find ourselves forced into hostilities against our will. Under these circumstances, I thought it was undesirable that the Sultan should ask us to define more distinctly the position which we took up. His Majesty might be well assured that it was not with any unfriendly designs towards him or his Empire that the British fleet had gone up to the Sea of Marmora.

His Excellency then spoke of the danger of a Russian occupation of Constantinople, to which I answered that Her Majesty's Government would use their utmost influence to discourage it, but that I could not undertake to say more.

Musurus Pasha referred to the possible contingency of the Sultan quitting his capital, and asking for an asylum on board the British fleet.

I said that in the event of His Majesty thinking it necessary to take refuge on board a British man-of-war, he could undoubtedly do so, but I gave no opinion as to the expediency of such a step.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 719.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 126. Confidential.)
Rome, February 10, 1878.

My Lord,

HAVING communicated to M. Depretis, as reported in my despatch No. 111 of the 7th instant, the intelligence conveyed in Mr. Layard's telegrams of the continued advance of the Russian army on Constantinople, notwithstanding the armistice, it was a great relief to his Excellency's mind to receive from Count Corti the telegram, reported in my despatch No. 116 of the 9th instant, to the effect that the Russians only occupied the position agreed upon in the armistice, and were not marching on Constantinople.

When I acquainted his Excellency, in an interview I had with him on the 9th instant, with Mr. Layard's telegram, describing the positions occupied by the Russian troops in virtue of the armistice, his Excellency admitted that in the present condition of the Turkish army it amounted to a virtual occupation, but still this was far preferable, his Excellency said, to a real one. He now founded his hopes upon the Conference.

Having informed his Excellency, with reference to some of the questions to be treated there, that I had reason to believe that the French Government inclined to the maintenance of the existing arrangements, in regard to the question of the navigation of the Straits by ships of war, M. Depretis stated that this was also his opinion, although he had no *parti pris*, and would be willing to consider any other which might equally guarantee the interests of the Western Powers.

His Excellency repeated what he had stated in previous interviews, as already reported, that if the Turks were to be maintained in Constantinople it would be necessary that they should be strong enough to be guardians of the interests of Europe in this commanding position, and for this reason he regarded the preservation of their fleet from the hands of Russia, if it should be claimed as a war indemnity, as a most essential condition.

His Excellency again alluded to the necessity of providing every security for the good government of the Christians.

In speaking of the retrocession to Russia of the part of Bessarabia taken from her in 1856, it would, of course, be a hardship upon Roumania, who had a right to expect a

different treatment from her powerful ally, though he could not say they deserved much sympathy, but he thought it might perhaps be looked upon as a set-off to the pecuniary indemnity for the war.

On my remarking that Italy had considerable interest in the free navigation of the Danube being in safe hands, M. Depretis observed that he was quite alive to these interests, but that it did not appear to him that placing Russia in her former position they would be likely to be in any way affected.

His Excellency added, however, that he had really no fixed ideas respecting these arrangements; he should only be anxious to act with the other Powers in the interests of peace, and he only alluded to the retrocession question as a means perhaps of meeting the claim for pecuniary indemnity.

His Excellency begged, therefore, that what he said on these matters might only be considered as general ideas which he threw out, and not as indicating any fixed principles of policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 720.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 127.)
Rome, February 11, 1878.

My Lord,

I CALLED upon M. Depretis this morning, when he informed me that, in reply to the instructions sent to Count Corti to apply for a Firman for two ships-of-war to proceed to Constantinople, Count Corti had telegraphed to say that, in consequence of the perfect tranquillity which prevailed in the capital, and the faithful observance of the stipulations of the armistice, he had, in agreement with the French Chargé d'Affaires, decided that it would be better not to ask for the Firman without receiving further orders to do so.

M. Depretis further informed me that he had not sent any fresh instructions to Count Corti on this matter, and that he had heard from him by a telegram, dated yesterday at 4·30 P.M., that the British fleet had not entered the Dardanelles in consequence of counter-orders which the Commander-in-chief had received when he was on the point of doing so.

M. Depretis added that at 10·30 last evening he had received a communication from the Russian Ambassador, stating that if England or any other Power sent their ships to Constantinople for the purpose of protecting their countrymen, the Russian troops would march in for the protection of the Christian population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 721.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 128. Very Confidential.)
Rome, February 11, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the information given me to-day by M. Depretis respecting the non-application by Count Corti for the Firman for two Italian ships to go to Constantinople, to the counter-orders sent to the British fleet not to proceed there, and to the communication made last night by the Russian Ambassador, that if England or any other Power sent ships to Constantinople to protect their subjects, the Russian troops would march in for the protection of the Christians, his Excellency said that he thought it very desirable not to afford the Russians any pretext for taking possession of the capital.

If they did so, how, he inquired, were they to be got out? He did not believe, he said, in the reported secret alliance between Russia and the Porte, but the Turks were now so disorganized as to be totally unable to offer any resistance.

His Excellency proceeded to say he had hopes in the peaceful issue of the Conference. He had received information that Prince Bismarck wished to hasten its meeting, which he looked upon as a good sign. If it met, and Prince Gortchakow was its President, he believed it would be successful. The Prince, at his age, would not wish to end his career by a failure.

Providing he was correct in his surmise that there was no secret alliance with Russia, M. Depretis presumed that the Turks, during the breathing time which they now had, would be able to reorganize themselves a little, and in this case, as the Russians were only in possession of the outer lines, would be able to offer a better defence than they could now do at the inner lines.

At all events, M. Depretis continued, Europe could not be taken at a greater disadvantage than by the Russians taking possession of Constantinople at this moment.

His Excellency repeated that he had confidence in the Conference. He believed Prince Bismarck would exert his influence in inducing Russia to be moderate. If, however, the Conference should not lead to peace, his Excellency added, "il faut aviser."

I venture to say that I think it would be very advantageous if your Lordship could furnish me with the views of Her Majesty's Government upon the principal points likely to be discussed in the Conference, in order that I may be enabled to impart them to M. Depretis, who frequently repeats his desire of adopting the same policy as England and Austria; and my Austro-Hungarian colleague informs me that his Excellency's language to him is equally satisfactory upon this point.

M. Depretis told me to-day that he had received no further communication from the Vienna Cabinet relative to the place of meeting of the Conference, or how it was to be composed.

His Excellency's opinion is that the sooner it can meet the better, and that it is most essential to secure the attendance of Prince Gortchakow, and he spoke with dread of the possibility of General Ignatiew.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 722.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 135. Confidential.)
Rome, February 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE thought it right to inform M. Depretis that the French Chargé d'Affaires gave other reasons than those assigned by Count Corti for not executing his instructions to apply for a Firman for the two Italian ships to go to Constantinople, and I read his Excellency the telegram from Lord Lyons on this subject.

In reply his Excellency produced Court Corti's telegram, which he read to me, and which is nearly in the following words: "Dans le doute que nos instructions de demander Firman ne fussent données sous l'impression que l'ordre public était menacé je me suis décidé, d'accord avec le Chargé d'Affaires de France, de suspendre exécution. Tranquillité parfaite; conditions d'armistice régulièrement exécutées. J'attends ordre." Not a word, therefore, respecting permission to enter having been refused to British fleet.

M. Depretis said that he had neither withdrawn nor confirmed the original instruction. He was awaiting further intelligence.

In reply to my inquiry, his Excellency said he had nothing to confirm the belief, which had also been expressed to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires as well as to Lord Lyons, in a Russo-Turkish offensive and defensive alliance; and in answer to a further question, M. Depretis said that he thought the refusal of the Turks to allow the British fleet to enter should probably be attributed to Russian influence—to the fear, in short, which the Turks might probably have, of bringing the Russians into Constantinople.

His Excellency then reverted to the opinion he expressed yesterday, as reported in my despatch No. 128 of that date, that it would be wise to avoid affording Russia any pretext for entering Constantinople, though he acknowledged that he was not without fear that she might do so at any rate, but at the same time, his Excellency said, if public tranquillity came to be menaced, he did not see how the Powers could leave their subjects without protection. Perhaps, his Excellency added, if the Conference were to assemble speedily this would be the best chance of preventing the catastrophe he was alluding to. His Excellency informed me that he had heard from Vienna that Count Andrassy was prepared to accept the Conference in any town selected by Russia. He added his belief, however, that the relations between Austria and Russia were not so friendly as they have been lately, and information had reached him that large Russian forces had been collected at Ploesti.

Returning to the question of sending the fleets to Constantinople, his Excellency said that if the supposed alliance between Russia and Turkey was a reality, the fleets would be

caught in a mouse-trap. For his part, therefore, he thought that the only course to take in this terrible position of affairs was to await the Conference or Congress. Perhaps some good might come out of this. It was a pity, he said, that England had not occupied Gallipoli some months ago, or even after Plevna. The position would now have been very different.

M. Depretis informed me that the Italian squadron, now in the neighbourhood of Salonica, amounted to four or five iron-clads, but that at the end of the month there would be seven iron-clads besides other vessels. I believe, indeed, that the Italian Government are assembling all their available force there.

My Austrian colleague told me yesterday that his Government proposed also to send a couple of ships to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 729.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 143. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, February 14, 1878.*

I CALLED upon M. Depretis yesterday in order to inform him that the Austrian Government had instructed their Ambassador at Constantinople to apply for a Firman to enable two ships of war to enter the Dardanelles; that the Austrian Government would wish their ships and those of Italy to enter at the same time, and also that they should enter at once, and not make their entry depend on "case of need." I likewise informed his Excellency that I had received your Lordship's instructions to support the Austrian request.

M. Depretis replied that the information I gave him did not coincide with that which he had received from the Italian Ambassador at Vienna, and he then read me a telegram which he had received, I understood, the previous day from Count Robilant, which said that he had been informed by Count Andrassy that he had sent formal orders to Count Zichy to apply for a Firman, to enable two Austrian ships to enter the Dardanelles in "case of need," and that he should be glad to see the Italian Government take the same course. The Austrian ships, Count Andrassy added, would go at once to Besika and await the answer. Count Robilant further reports that, having asked Count Andrassy what course would be pursued if the Porte refused the Firman, his Excellency replied that the Turks would be exercising their rights and that the Austrian ships would remain outside the Dardanelles.

I then acquainted M. Depretis that a detachment of the British fleet was on its way to Constantinople, and would enter the Dardanelles that afternoon. His Excellency replied that he was aware of this from Count Corti, who reported that they were expected to be at the entrance about 4 P.M., and that the Council of Ministers were deliberating whether the entry should be opposed by force.

I asked his Excellency whether, if our ships were admitted, he would not send some Italian ships also.

M. Depretis replied that he had no motive for doing so at present. The only object for which he had contemplated sending the two Italian ships was for the protection of the life and property of Italian subjects; but, as far as he was at present informed, the town was perfectly quiet, and Italian subjects were consequently not exposed to danger.

His Excellency went on to say that he had always been of opinion that it was most desirable not to afford Russia any pretext whatever, for which she was only too desirous, of marching her troops into Constantinople, and he therefore regretted that such pretext should now have been furnished by the entry of a portion of the British fleet. This, he said, created a new phase in the question, but "des faits accomplis" must be accepted.

I pointed out that the sending of these ships was quite consistent with the policy openly and invariably declared by Her Majesty's Government, viz., the protection of British interests; that Russia had forced it upon England, and if it only resulted in saving the Turkish fleet from falling into the hands of Russia, I presumed it would receive the approbation of the Italian and other Governments which had the same interests as Great Britain.

M. Depretis acknowledged that this would certainly be a most desirable result, but I saw it was useless to press his Excellency any further at that moment in regard to following the same course immediately, and I therefore contented myself with reminding his Excellency of his often-repeated assertion that he considered that the two countries had the same interests, and expressing a hope that ere long some Italian ships would join those of England before Constantinople.

To this M. Depretis replied that it was his intention that the Italian squadron should gradually move to some station near the entrance of the Dardanelles, so that if their presence were required for the protection of Italian interests they would be immediately at hand.

Having this morning received the repetition of your Lordship's telegram to Lord A. Loftus of yesterday, recording the communication by the Russian Ambassador of a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, relative to the intention of Her Majesty's Government to send ships to Constantinople, and of the Russian Government to march in their troops, together with your Lordship's reply to this communication, I called upon M. Depretis, and read it to him.

His Excellency at once admitted the force of the distinction which your Lordship establishes between the presence before Constantinople of ships-of-war of a friendly Power, with the view of affording protection which British subjects are entitled to require of their Government in case of need, and the marching into the town of troops of a hostile army, in violation of the existing armistice, and at the risk of provoking disasters, and causing the very danger to the Christian population which the Russian Government deprecate.

I then read to his Excellency the telegrams from Sir Henry Elliot of yesterday, stating that Count Zichy had received absolute instructions to ask for a Firman for the passage of two Austrian ships-of-war, and that Count Andrassy, in acquainting the Russian Government with this, had accompanied the communication with a declaration that he could not admit that by sending ships-of-war to protect their subjects the Austrian Government afforded any pretext for the entry of a Russian force into Constantinople; that there was no similarity whatever between the two measures.

M. Depretis said that he had been informed by the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador of the instructions sent to Count Zichy, but his Excellency did not seem much disposed to follow the example. He again reverted to the argument that he had no reason to believe Italian subjects to be in any danger; that he would not like to expose himself to a refusal of the Firman by the Porte; and that, therefore, he should prefer waiting to see the result of the Austrian application.

I argued for some time in order to overcome his Excellency's hesitation; but, not to trouble your Lordship at too great length, I will merely mention that the points to which I especially drew his Excellency's attention were the following:—

1. Prince Gortchakow's own declaration that the presence of the fleets at Constantinople would not be considered as a hostile act towards Russia.

2. That if the presence of foreign ships-of-war at Constantinople was to be the pretext for the occupation of the town by Russian troops, the pretext was already furnished, and the sending of some Italian ships would make no difference.

3. That if danger to foreigners were to arise, it might come so suddenly that Italian ships would not have time to arrive unless the Firman was obtained at once.

4. That the Italian Government had professed their desire of acting with England and Austria, the three Powers having the same interests; and it was consequently most important that they should each be represented by their respective navies at Constantinople at this moment.

5. That as our ships had been allowed to pass, the Porte could not refuse the same permission to other Powers.

To this last argument M. Depretis replied that the Porte had protested against the passage of the English ships as a violation of Treaty rights, and that he thought the rights of the Porte should, if possible, be respected, to which I answered that it was quite natural of the Porte to protest, in order not to give her enemy the excuse for marching troops into the town as a punishment to the Porte for having allowed the fleets to enter the Dardanelles.

M. Depretis finally said he would consult his colleagues upon the question, and communicate with the Austrian and French Governments.

My Austro-Hungarian colleague, whom I have seen frequently of late, tells me that he is quite satisfied with the general tone of M. Depretis' language, and that Count Andrassy is the same with what he hears from Count Robilant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 724.

Sir C. Wyke to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 8.)
Copenhagen, February 13, 1878.

My Lord,

THE "Pall Mall Gazette" of the 9th instant having contained another sensational letter from its correspondent in this city to the effect that "the Danish Government is determined to profit by the present unsettled state of Europe to raise the North Schleswig question, and back up their diplomatic action, like Greece, with an armed force," a formal contradiction of this and other statements of a similar nature has been published in this morning's "Official Gazette" by the Government, which severely blames the author of these unfounded rumours, at the same time pointing out the mischief caused by thus spreading false intelligence likely to call in question its pacific policy and desire to maintain good relations with a neighbouring Power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES LENNOX WYKE.

No. 725.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February 17.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 17 Février, 1878.

JE vous prie de communiquer à Sa Majesté la Reine le télégramme suivant de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan :—

"Je reçois en ce moment le télégramme de votre Majesté. L'entrée des troupes Russes dans la ville est indubitablement résolue, si la flotte de votre Majesté ne se retire. La présence des Russes, même en petit nombre, est un danger inévitable pour ma personne. C'est l'unique raison qui me fait réitérer ma demande. Mon Ambassadeur donnera des explications au Gouvernement de votre Majesté. Je suis engagé à faire connaître à Sa Majesté l'Empereur Alexandre l'issue de cette négociation. Je ne sais quel délai je puis attendre.

(Signé) "ABDUL HAMID."

No. 726.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17, 1 P.M.)

(No. 222.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, February 17, 1878, 11 A.M.

EMPEROR OF RUSSIA has telegraphed to Sultan that as the British fleet has come so near to Constantinople, he begs to be allowed to send a portion of his troops to the city. Sultan has replied, that as the British ships have left Prince's Islands and have gone far away from Constantinople, he sees no reason why the Emperor should now send troops here.

No. 727.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17, 4 P.M.)

(No. 230.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, February 17, 1878, 12·45 P.M.

FOLLOWING received from Consul Green, dated to-day :—

"I understand that the Porte has telegraphed here that Russian and Turkish officers have been dispatched to verify positions now held by Montenegro."

No. 727*.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.)
Berlin, February 17, 1878.

PRINCE BISMARCK fully confirms my telegram of yesterday, and begs that what follows should not appear in a Blue Book.

Her Majesty's Government, he says, can rely on the neutrality of Germany during the conflict between England and Russia, which he earnestly hopes may yet be averted by a Conference.

He attributes the delay of Russia to go into Conference to the fact that Russia thinks herself strong enough to accept war with England, which would be popular in Russia at this moment.

He thinks Count Andrassy sincerely willing to support England, but he does not think Emperor of Austria willing to support Count Andrassy in a war with Russia.

The three Emperors, he says, being in constant personal and private correspondence with each other without the knowledge and behind their Ministers' backs, it is difficult to know what they are settling among each other.

He thinks Austria less well prepared for war than Russia at present, and that immediate effect of war would be the loss of Galicia and, perhaps, of the Trentino to Austria, which he would regret.

I asked him whether Germany would not object or interfere. Prince Bismarck replied that Germany would be neutral, but that he would object to a Russian occupation of Moravia or Bohemia, a contingency, however, he did not think likely to (happen ?).

On the whole, he does not think much will be gained by war, as Russia is in possession of the Danube fortresses and of the seaboard, and the independence of the Sultan is virtually at an end.

He, for this reason, hopes and believes that a Conference will be held before war is resorted to.

No. 728.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 134.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 2, 1878.

IN conformity with the instructions of your Lordship's telegram of the 31st ultimo, I expressed to Prince Gortchakow the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government on learning that his Highness was willing to withdraw the Article relating to the ulterior understanding for safeguarding Russian interests in the Straits, considering it vague and unnecessary; and I inquired of his Highness whether the Article had been consequently withdrawn from the preliminaries of peace.

His Highness replied by confirming again his statement in regard to the Article, and again renewed his assurance that the question of the Straits would be treated in concert with the European Powers.

As the Article was in the original instructions to the Grand Duke Nicholas, and as the preliminaries had probably been signed, it was evident to me that Prince Gortchakow was no longer able to strike it out from the preliminaries, but he informed me that he had spoken to General Ignatiew before his departure on the subject, and had given him instructions in that sense.

General Ignatiew, his Highness informed me, had reached the Danube on his way to Adrianople, but had been unable to cross it on account of the floating ice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 729.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 136. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 2, 1878.

I AM privately informed that, on the first verbal communication by the Austrian Ambassador here of the reserve made by Count Andrassy as to the validity of a Treaty between Russia and Turkey on questions affecting the Treaties of 1856 and 1871, Prince Gortchakow showed some disappointment and annoyance.

He replied verbally to General Langenau that the reply to this communication would be conveyed in the form of an autograph letter from the Emperor Alexander to the Emperor Franz Josef, of which M. de Novikow, who was on the eve of returning to his post, would be the bearer.

I am informed that Prince Gortchakow has accepted *en principe* the idea suggested by Count Andrassy for an European Conference.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 730.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 144.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 5, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship the official text of a speech addressed by the Emperor after the parade on the 3rd instant, when His Majesty inspected the 85th Regiment of Infantry of Wiborg.

This language of the Emperor is said to have been much stronger than is represented in the official text, and it has produced some uneasiness in the financial and commercial circles.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 730.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of $\frac{24 \text{ Janvier}}{5 \text{ Février}}$ 1878.

ON lit dans le "Messager Officiel":—

"Hier Dimanche, 22 Janvier, Sa Majesté l'Empereur a passé en revue le 85e Régiment d'Infanterie de Vyborg. Sa Majesté a été pleinement satisfaite de l'excellente tenue de ce régiment. Après la revue, l'Empereur a appelé près de lui tous les généraux et officiers présents et leur a adressé les paroles suivantes:—

"'Je vous félicite, Messieurs, de la conclusion de l'armistice à des conditions aussi avantageuses pour nous. Nous le devons à nos glorieuses troupes, qui ont prouvé que rien n'est impossible à nos braves. Mais il s'en faut encore de beaucoup que tout soit terminé et nous devons nous tenir prêts, tant que nous n'aurons pas obtenu une paix durable et digne de la Russie. Puisse Dieu nous y aider.'

"Ces paroles du Souverain ont été accueillies par d'unanimes et enthousiastes hourras."

No. 731.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 152. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 6, 1878.

I AM informed on good authority that an official correspondence is now going on between St. Petersburgh and Vienna on the question of the place of meeting for the proposed Conference.

Prince Gortchakow has addressed a despatch to M. de Novikow, explaining his motives for objecting to Vienna—ostensibly on national grounds. He states that he should be subjected to severe reproach by public opinion in Russia if he were to accept a secondary position for Russia in any European Conference for the settlement of Eastern affairs. He further considers that the Eastern question has already given rise to much political agitation at Vienna, and he is of opinion that the Conference should assemble in a town far from all political influences.

It is generally, however, presumed that the real objections of Prince Gortchakow to Vienna are based on his reminiscences of the Conference held there in 1855, and that they are further influenced by a feeling of personal vanity and by his desire to preside at the Conference, which post of honour would, by usual courtesy, be conferred on Count Andrassy if the Conference was held at Vienna, but which would by custom be conferred on Prince Gortchakow by reason of age if the Conference was held elsewhere.

Should the decision be finally settled in favour of Vienna, it is probable that Prince Gortchakow will not attend in person, and it is said that General Ignatiew will be the Russian Plenipotentiary. It is however generally supposed that Count Andrassy would rather accede to the wishes of Prince Gortchakow than incur the risk of the appointment of General Ignatiew as Plenipotentiary.

I am informed secretly, but not officially, that it is intended by the Russian Government to occupy Bulgaria for two years, at the expense of Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 732.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 154.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 7, 1878.

I AM officially assured that the Russian troops have not advanced since the notification of the armistice has been received by the several Russian Commanders.

I am also informed that similar assurances have been addressed by telegraph to Count Schouvaloff for communication to your Lordship.

The terms of the armistice are not yet known here, but I am told that its duration is for no fixed period.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 733.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 156.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 7, 1878.

I AM informed, from an authentic source, that the Greek Government have addressed an appeal to the Imperial Government for their influence in defence of Greece from a Turkish attack. The Imperial Government have, I am told, replied, that while blaming the course taken by Greece in their warlike attitude, they will use their endeavours to dissuade Turkey from having recourse to hostilities against Greece.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 734.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 161.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 8, 1878.

WITH reference to Sir Henry Elliot's telegram of the 6th instant, referring to the objections of Prince Gortchakow to Vienna as the seat of the Conference, I may inform your Lordship that the Russian despatch to M. de Novikow, explaining the motives of Prince Gortchakow's objections, will only reach Vienna to-morrow. The substance of the despatch has, however been conveyed to Count Andrassy by telegraph.

There has never been an idea of St. Petersburgh as the seat of the Conference. Prince Gortchakow has, I believe, suggested Baden-Baden, Dresden, Geneva, and other places.

From what I can learn I do not think that Prince Gortchakow attaches the smallest importance to the term "Congress" or "Conference."

I have reason to believe that if the Conference is held in any town but the capital of one of the Great Powers, Prince Gortchakow will attend in person.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 735.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 182. Secret.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 10, 1878.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram, marked "Secret," of yesterday's date, I have the honour to state that I did not see any objection to Colonel Wellesley's returning to his post.

Only very lately Prince Gortchakow spoke to me in great praise, and with evident satisfaction, of the attitude and language of Colonel Wellesley in London. His words were: "Nous sommes très content du Colonel Wellesley. Il s'est très bien conduit en Angleterre."

I may observe to your Lordship that the feeling here among all classes is intensely bitter against England and the English.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 736.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 184.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith the semi-official article from the "Agence Russe" published this morning, the substance of which I forwarded to your Lordship in my telegram No. 25 of to-day's date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 736.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

St. Pétersbourg, Samedi soir, le $\frac{23 \text{ Janvier}}{4 \text{ Février}}$, 1878.

LA flotte Anglaise a passé les Dardanelles en destination de Constantinople.

Quoique motivée, dit-on, par la nécessité de protéger les populations Chrétiennes de Constantinople, cette décision du Cabinet de Londres paraît tout d'abord devoir rendre à la Russie sa liberté d'action.

Si, pourtant, la présence de la flotte Anglaise dans les eaux du Bosphore, proposée par la Russie dans le Memorandum de Berlin et plus tard, lors de l'envoi du Comte Soumarokov à Vienne, a pour but de coopérer au maintien de l'ordre, et à la solution Européenne, sérieuse et équitable, de la question d'Orient, elle sera accueillie comme auxiliaire.

En tout état de cause la conduite de la Russie se réglera sur l'attitude de l'Angleterre.

No. 737.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 188.)
St. Petersburgh, February 11, 1878.

My Lord,

I WAS privately informed this morning that after a Council held yesterday at the Palace an important communication was sent by telegraph to Count Schouvaloff.

I was unable to ascertain its exact nature, but from what I could gather it referred to the presence of a portion of the British fleet at Constantinople.

I called three times on Prince Gortchakow in the course of the morning without having the good fortune to find his Highness.

I am told that the German Ambassador at Constantinople has telegraphed to his Government that perfect tranquillity and order reign in that capital.

In the course of the afternoon to-day I was informed that the important communication referred to above was an instruction to Count Schouvaloff to inform your Lordship that orders had been sent to the Russian Commander-in-chief to occupy Constantinople, and apparently with the consent of the Sultan.

Up to this morning I am told no decision has been come to in regard to the place of meeting for the Conference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 738.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 201.)
St. Petersburgh, February 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a telegram published in this morning's "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" addressed by Prince Gortchakow to the Russian Ambassadors at Berlin, London, Paris, Rome, and Vienna, announcing the intended entry of a portion of the Russian forces into Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 738.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of $\frac{\text{January 31}}{\text{February 12}}$, 1878.

Télégramme du Chancelier de l'Empire aux Ambassadeurs de Russie à Berlin, Londres, Paris, Rome, et Vienne, en date de St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{29 \text{ Janvier}}{10 \text{ Février}}$, 1878.

LE Gouvernement Britannique, sur les rapports de son Ambassadeur à Constantinople, s'est décidé à profiter d'un Firman précédemment obtenu pour diriger une partie de

sa flotte à Constantinople, afin de protéger la vie et la sécurité des sujets Britanniques. D'autres Puissances ont adopté la même mesure pour leurs nationaux. L'ensemble de ces circonstances nous oblige à aviser, de notre côté, aux moyens de protéger les Chrétiens, dont la vie et les propriétés seraient menacées et, afin d'obtenir ce résultat, d'avoir en vue l'entrée d'une partie de nos troupes à Constantinople.

No. 739.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 204.)
St. Petersburgh, February 13, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship an article from the "Golos," published by the "Agence Russe," in which is discussed the position, in regard to Russia, of England and Austria at the Conference.

In referring to England this article states that "British interests" are of that extended nature that in order to respect them Russia must either accept voluntarily a position of dependence, not to say of humiliation.

In regard to Austria the article states, that Russia has no ground for satisfaction. The complete enfranchisement of the Christian population of the East causes much disquietude at Vienna, as is revealed in the late note of Count Andrassy, which equally speaks of "Austria's interests," which Russia must respect on the conclusion of peace, and it adds that if the Cabinet of Vienna desires that its legitimate pretensions should be taken into account, it must prove at the Conference that it is deserving the friendship it claims from Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 739.

Extract from the "Golos."

L'ANGLETERRE ET L'AUTRICHE À LA CONFÉRENCE.—On lit dans le "Golos":—

"La crise marche rapidement vers son dénouement et sous peu on verra ce que la guerre avec la Turquie a produit pour la paix Européenne et l'honneur de la Russie. A la Conférence prochaine la Russie aura sans doute beaucoup à lutter pour maintenir intacts les avantages que lui ont donnés les victoires de ses armées. Ici surgit naturellement une question. Quelles sont les Puissances dont la Russie doit se méfier et dont elle n'a à espérer aucune concession sur le terrain de la politique Orientale. C'est d'abord l'Angleterre avec ses intérêts, puis l'Autriche avec le prestige de son Gouvernement. On sait à quelles conditions l'Angleterre a gardé la neutralité: ses intérêts ne devaient être, en aucune façon, lésés par la guerre actuelle. Le Cabinet de Londres a plusieurs fois renouvelé les assurances de sa neutralité conditionnelle, mais, hélas! sans jamais préciser la limite au-delà de laquelle la guerre aurait porter atteinte à ces fameux intérêts. Or, quelque soin que la Russie ait mis à sauvegarder les susceptibilités pointilleuses de la fière Albion, elle ne sait pas plus aujourd'hui que le premier jour si elle a réellement satisfait les désirs de l'Angleterre. C'est que les intérêts Britanniques embrassent un si vaste horizon! Pour que la Russie arrive à les respecter, il faudrait qu'elle acceptât volontairement une situation de dépendance, pour ne pas dire d'humiliation. C'est ce qui, bien entendu, ne saurait avoir lieu. Passons à l'Autriche. De ce côté non plus il n'y a pas lieu de nous réjouir. La perspective de l'affranchissement complet des Chrétiens d'Orient provoque à Vienne des inquiétudes qui se sont révélées dans la note récente du Comte Andrassy, qui parle également d'intérêts Autrichiens que la Russie aurait à respecter lors de la conclusion de la paix. Si le Cabinet de Vienne désire que de ses légitimes prétensions il soit vraiment tenu un juste compte, il lui faut prouver à la Conférence qu'il soit mériter l'amitié qu'il réclame de la Russie. En somme, la prochaine Conférencee nous offrira de grands enseignements dont il faut espérer que l'Europe saura profiter."

No. 740.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 208. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 13, 1878.

PRINCE GHIKA, the Roumanian Agent, called on me yesterday. He informed me that General Ignatiew, on his passage through Bucharest, had verbally communicated a proposal to the Roumanian Government to retrocede to Russia the portion of Bessarabia given to Roumania by the Treaty of Paris, for which an indemnity was to be given in the Dobrudscha, with the Kilia Channel of the Danube, and the possession of the fortress of Widdin.

The Russian proposal was submitted to and discussed in a secret sitting of both Chambers, by whom it was unanimously rejected.

Prince Ghika was instructed to communicate to Prince Gortchakow the decision of the Chambers, accompanied by the motives which the Chambers had assigned for their decision, viz., 1st, that the Roumanian Government were not empowered to give up a portion of territory which had been given to them by the Conference of Paris; and 2ndly, that it would be a violation of the Convention entered into between Russia and Roumania previous to the war, by which Russia guaranteed to Roumania the integrity of her territory.

Prince Gortchakow evinced great annoyance at this communication by Prince Ghika, and observed, "Que c'était un acte d'hostilité contre la Russie."

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 741.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 96 A.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February* 10, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 92 of the 9th instant, I am now able to add that the German Government have only one available ship at Salonica, and that Prince Reuss has been asked whether it is required at Constantinople or not. His Highness' answer has not yet been received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 742.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 99. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February* 12, 1878.

I HAVE been assured very confidentially by a person whose information is generally correct, that since the vote of credit in England Prince Bismarck has secretly but strongly urged Count Andrassy to oppose a firm and determined resistance to the policy Russia is now pursuing, if he feels confident that he can secure the support and co-operation of England, but not otherwise.

Prince Bismarck, my informant says, holds that Russia, flushed with her late successes, might accept war with Austria alone; but that the prospect of England co-operating with Austria would have the effect of bringing Russia to her senses, and making her think twice before she accepted the unequal conflict.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 743.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 101.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February* 12, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 96A of the 10th instant, I now learn that Prince Reuss has telegraphed from Constantinople to say that the population, being quiet, the presence of German ships is not absolutely necessary, and the German Government has, in consequence, decided not to apply for the present to the Porte for a Firman of passage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 744.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 104. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February* 14, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 83 of the 7th instant, I am confidentially informed that the German Government would object to Dresden or any other German capital for the proposed Conference on the Eastern question; but, at the same time, they would agree to Baden-Baden, if that place was agreeable to Austria and the other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 745.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 106.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February* 15, 1878.

SOME commotion was excited in commercial and financial circles in Berlin by a report, subsequently reproduced by foreign newspapers, that His Majesty the Emperor, in a conversation with the President of the Reichstag, had observed that the present situation of Eastern affairs was critical, but that he still hoped that peace would ensue.

This phrase being opened to various constructions, created considerable disquietude, and the semi-official "Provincial Correspondence," an extract of which, in French translation, I have the honour to transmit, gives the following corrected version of the incident in question.

The Emperor, in alluding to the gravity of the situation of affairs in the East, expressed his firm hope that, in spite of it, it would be found possible to maintain the peace of Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 745.

Extract from the "Correspondance de Berlin."

SOUS ce titre: "L'Empereur d'Allemagne et la Guerre," les journaux étrangers ont reproduit un télégramme ainsi conçu :—

"L'Empereur d'Allemagne, recevant en audience particulière le Président du Parlement Allemand, a prononcé les paroles suivantes:

"'La situation actuelle est critique; cependant je conserve encore l'espoir que la paix aura lieu.'"

La "Correspondance Provinciale" rectifie comme il suit la version de ce télégramme :—

"L'Empereur a reçu le Bureau du Reichstag, et parlant de la gravité que présente actuellement la situation extérieure, il a exprimé l'espérance positive (*bestimmte*) que néanmoins on réussira à maintenir la paix de l'Europe."

No. 746.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 108. Very Confidential.)
Berlin, February 15, 1878.

My Lord,

WHILE Count de Launay, the Italian Ambassador at this Court, proceeded to St. Petersburgh to notify to the Czar the death of King Victor Emmanuel and the accession to the throne of King Humbert, General Count Cialdini arrived in Berlin on a similar mission, and was received by the Emperor with special honours and with great cordiality by the Royal Family in general.

Count Cialdini left Berlin for Rome this morning. Count de Launay has not yet returned from Russia to his post.

My French colleague informed me confidentially that General Cialdini, being an old friend of his, had spoken very frankly to him on the subject of the impressions he derived from his visit to Berlin, and that he had gradually become convinced that the German Government wished "Russia to be satiated to repletion in the East, so as to keep her well occupied for some years to come," but at the same time the General noticed a feeling of jealous disappointment at the too rapid and too brilliant military achievements of Russia after the fall of Plevna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 747.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 168.)
Paris, February 16, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE this evening had the honour to receive your Lordship's instruction respecting the urgency of assembling the Conference immediately, and I have without any delay sent M. Waddington the letter of which I inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 747.

Lord Lyons to M. Waddington.

Paris, February 16, 1878.

My dear Minister,

I AM anxious that you should know as soon as possible that Her Majesty's Government strongly urge that all the neutral Powers should unite without delay in pressing representations to the Russian Government that the Conference should be convened forthwith.

Her Majesty's Government consider that the immediate assembly of the Conference seems to promise the only satisfactory issue from the present political embarrassments.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 748.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, February 18.)

(Télégraphique.)
Athènes, le 17 Février, 1878.

NOTRE Ministre à Constantinople me télégraphie que la Porte communiqua hier aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances que l'armée Hellénique franchit de nouveau la frontière, et qu'elle fait la même communication à ses Représentants à l'étranger, les invitant la communiquer aux Cabinets, et déclarer qu'elle n'en pouvait assumer la responsabilité. J'ai télégraphié à l'instant à M. Coundouriotis que nos troupes sont toutes sur le territoire Hellénique, et que les renseignements donnés à la Porte n'ont aucun fondement. Veuillez-vous présenter à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères pour lui communiquer ce qui précède. Vous devez ajouter à son Excellence qu'ayant donnée une fois aux Puissances

la promesse de retirer nos troupes, nous ne pouvons pas leur donner l'ordre de sortir de nouveau.

No. 749.

Count Schouvaloff to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 18.)

Londres, le $\frac{6}{18}$ Février, 1878.

LE Prince Gortchakow m'autorise par télégraphie à déclarer à votre Excellence que le Cabinet Impérial maintient sa promesse de ne pas occuper Gallipoli ni d'entrer dans les lignes de Boulair.

Le Cabinet Impérial s'attend en échange à ce qu'aucune troupe Anglaise ne soit débarquée sur la côte d'Asie ou d'Europe.

(Signé) SCHOUVALOFF.

No. 750.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received February 18.)

Sir,

Admiralty, February 18, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copies of telegrams received yesterday and this morning in regard to the proceedings of the squadron under the command of Vice-Admiral Hornby in the Sea of Marmora and at Besika Bay, viz.:

From Captain Jago, Her Majesty's ship "Raleigh," dated 17th February, 11·55 A.M., at Koumkale.

From Captain Jago, Her Majesty's Ship "Raleigh," dated 17th February, 4.30 P.M., at Koumkale.

From Admiral Hornby, dated 17th February, 8 P.M., at Prince's Island.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 750.

Captain Jago to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)
Koumkale, February 17, 1878, 11·55 P.M.

"RALEIGH" afloat; no damage, except most of false keel off; making no water, and is quite serviceable. Following telegram been received:—"All ships but one to proceed to Gulf of Xeros to watch Russian troops, and if they observe preparations for embarkation with the view of landing on Peninsula Gallipoli, you are to warn Russian commanding officer that you have been ordered to prevent such landing, and you are to oppose it by force if persevered in. Acknowledge, and repeat message and report about 'Raleigh.'"

"Hotspur" and "Ruby" will sail to-morrow morning to carry out Admiralty orders, and "Raleigh" as soon as completed with coals, leaving "Research" at Besika Bay.

Inclosure 2 in No. 750.

Captain Jago to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)
Koumkale, February 17, 1878, 4·30 P.M.

"Hotspur," "Research," "Ruby" left for Xeros this morning. I am here alone. Cannot obtain information about cable to Beyrout at Tenedos. Have not sent to inquire at Chanak.

Inclosure 3 in No. 750.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Prince's Islands, February* 17, 1878, 8 P.M.

IN reference to their Lordships' telegraphic communication of yesterday, I beg to report our force at Gallipoli is insufficient to destroy heavy guns unless the Turks consent. If the Russians capture the peninsula, the Turks would probably make better terms by leaving the peninsula in their hands. I beg to urge upon their Lordships that I consider the position of Gallipoli to be most critical, and it cannot be assured without a speedy understanding with the Turkish Government. From a conversation with Ambassador and General Dickson, as well as from public report, it seems certain Suleiman Pasha can(? not) be replaced by a trustworthy General, and positions held by united force of the expedition under English and Turks, or English alone. I need hardly point out that this squadron could render but very small service here if Gallipoli peninsula was lost.

Your telegraphic communication of 15th received; understand it to be answer to mine of 14th,* and have moved from Prince's Island to rendezvous 7 miles S.S.W. of it temporarily, according to Ambassador's wish, as stated in my telegraphic communication of 15th.† Am in easy communication with Prince's Islands, telegraph, and the Ambassador. "Raleigh" is afloat; reported not making water. If her bottom is damaged she will proceed Malta all despatch to be docked. Please telegraph to Rear-Admiral Commerell at Gallipoli result of Professor Abel's experiments on bursting guns. Am about to send him gun-cotton for that purpose.

No. 751.

Appeal from the Provisional Government of Pelion to the Greek Ministry.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, February 18.)

(Traduction.)

M. le Président,

NOTRE province ne pouvant supporter plus longtemps les exactions inqualifiables et les excès auxquels notre honneur et nos biens sont en butte, et voyant que sa tranquillité a été, jusqu'à ce jour, méconnue et faussement interprétée, a pris les armes comme un homme, pour proclamer sa liberté et son union avec la mère Grèce, sous le sceptre de Sa Majesté le Roi des Hellènes, George I.

Les Soussignés, nommés membres du Gouvernement Provisoire, nous avons recours, au nom de nos mandataires, qui nous ont choisi pour leurs Plénipotentiaires, et de tous nos concitoyens, à notre chère mère patrie, et nous réclamons tout son concours possible, afin d'obtenir la réalisation des vœux éternels de l'Hellénisme. Abandonnés à nous-mêmes, dont la force matérielle ne sera pas malheureusement à la hauteur de notre force morale, nos tyrans sanguinaires ne manqueront pas de nous faire subir tous les désastres des malheureux Bulgares; le cri d'une nationalité entière exaspérée sera à leurs yeux un crime qui sera puni par l'extermination.

Convaincus que notre cri de détresse trouvera son écho dans le cœur de tous les Hellènes, depuis le citoyen le plus minime jusqu'à l'homme de pouvoir le plus haut placé, nous avons, &c.,

Le Gouvernement Provisoire,

(Signé) Z. BASDEKI.
C. CARÉFI.
Z. COTOULI.
C. SAKELLARIADES.
A. BOYADJI.
E. STAMOULE.
G. NICOLAOU.
M. COTZAMANI.

---

* In telegram No. 18, February 14, above referred to, Admiral Hornby recommended all ships except one to go to Xeros from Besika Bay, that Rear-Admiral Commerell should defend Bulair lines and destroy guns, and that he, the Commander-in-chief, should return immediately to eastward end of Marmora.

† Admiralty telegram No. 21, February 14, gave Admiral Hornby discretion to move ships as he thought expedient. And in his reply No. 20 of February 15, he reported that he was going to Mundania, with the concurrence of the Ambassador.

Admiralty telegram No. 23 of February 16, ordered ships to go from Besika Bay to Xeros, and directed Admiral Hornby not to leave Prince's Islands unless absolutely necessary.

No. 752.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 229.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 17, 1878, 12·30 P.M.

YOUR Lordship communicated my telegram of the 5th instant to Parliament on the 8th. On account of interruption of direct telegraphic lines, subsequent telegrams of 6th and 7th, which would have explained telegram of the 5th, had not reached you, and I was accused of inaccuracy. I would request you, in justice to me, to state the following facts, which I give on the highest authority.

Armistice was signed on the 31st January. Server Pasha simply informed the Porte of the fact, leading it to believe that military operations were suspended, and that belligerents were to occupy positions held at the time of the signature of the armistice. Russians were then only at Tchorlu. He did not inform the Porte the lines of Constantinople were to be abandoned, and that Tchataldja was to be occupied by Russians. Consequently, when Russians advanced on that place, Porte believed there was a violation on their part of the Armistice, and requested me to telegraph as I did to your Lordship. The Protocol of Bases of Peace and Convention of Armistice were sent by a servant of Server Pasha, who left Adrianople on the morning of the 2nd instant, and came the greater part of the way on horseback, every impediment being thrown in his way. He did not reach Constantinople until 6th, and it was only on that day that Porte was made aware of the fact that the lines of Constantinople were to be abandoned under the terms of the armistice.

I immediately telegraphed to your Lordship. Server Pasha excuses himself for not having sent terms of armistice by telegraph, as the Convention was of so great a length; but there is every reason to believe that there was treachery in the matter, as the Sultan declares that he never would have consented to give up the lines of Constantinople, and that he was kept completely in the dark in the matter.

(Secret.)

I have reason to believe that Prince Reuss was acquainted with the terms of the armistice some days before the Porte, and that the telegraph line by Valona was working with connivance of Russians, while public was informed that that by Bombay was the only one open.

No. 753.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 231. Most Secret.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 17, 1878, 1 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I cannot suggest any method of getting possession by force of Dardanelles forts. This is a purely military and naval question, with which I am not competent to deal; but it appears to me that the best and only mode of securing the Dardanelles is by holding the Bulair lines, which we could do, I understand, with the help of Turkish troops and our ships of war. Captain Fife suggests that we should take Turkish Commander and troops now at Gallipoli Peninsula into our pay, with guarantee for pension and six months' pay in advance.

Sir C. Dickson informs me that instructions have been sent to Commander of Dardanelles that the forts on European side should be disarmed, the heavy guns thrown into the sea, and the ammunition and stores removed, if possible, to the other side, or, if not, destroyed. I will endeavour to keep the Turks to this; and, if we can obtain Sultan's consent to occupying forts on Asiatic side, the free passage of Straits would then, I presume, be secured.

No. 754.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 233.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 17, 1878, 2·50 P.M.

VICE-CONSUL at Rodosto has received intelligence that, on the 10th instant, 2,000 Russians entered Keshan on the road to Sharkeui, and that many more were expected. He has since heard that 16,000 men had arrived at former place bound for Gallipoli.

Engineers have arrived at Rédosto presumably to fortify place. Troops now there amount to 4,200 men and 11 guns.

No. 755.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 234.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 17, 1878, 6 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Longworth, dated Larissa, Saturday:—

Just arrived; only informed yesterday of telegraphic orders to await instructions at Larissa. Troops now in Thessaly sufficient to prevent insurrection becoming serious. Greek troops have withdrawn from Thessaly. Among Christians revolution still spreading. Among Turks panic still prevails. Pillage and violence very general by irregulars on Christians and Mahomedans.

No. 756.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 235. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 17, 1878, 6·20 P.M.

I HAVE seen Sultan to-day, and made communications to him contained in your telegrams of yesterday, as instructed. His Majesty promises answers to-morrow. He still hopes that Her Majesty's Government will succeed in preventing Russians from entering Constantinople. He begs me to say that if they do enter, there are threatenings to fear: that they may provoke disturbances which may lead to a general massacre of Mahommedans; that they may make him a prisoner if he remains, and dethrone him if he goes away; and that they may seize arsenals, arms, factories, and all military stores.

If the Sultan does leave Constantinople, he will probably, I think, go to Prince's Islands, where he will be quite secure, and in communication with his Government, which would remain to keep order and carry on Administration.

No. 757.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 236.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 17, 1878, 6·50 P.M.

STATEMENT attributed to Server Pasha published in "Daily News" of 17th ultimo has caused great indignation here. Sultan and Prime Minister have expressed to me much regret at so flagrant a breach of duty on the part of a high functionary, and have promised that justice shall be done. But Server Pasha absolutely denies that he made the statement, and that attributed to others is merely gossip. I deny that I ever encouraged the Turks to go to war, or to continue war, or ever promised or encouraged them to expect material aid from England. On the contrary, I have always striven for peace. If sympathy for human suffering, a desire to uphold the interests and dignity of my country, and efforts to promote cause of religious and civil liberty, be now considered offences, I confess to them.

No. 758.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 237.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 17, 1878, 8 P.M.

GENERAL DICKSON is of opinion that the lines of Bulair could be held by the Turkish forces now there with ease against any army that the Russians could bring against them, provided that the operations of the defence be directed and superintended by British officers, and such strength of seamen and marines as can be spared by the ships of war, say from 1,000 to 1,500 men, could be attached to Turkish troops, who, he agrees with Captain Fife, should be paid by England. Her Majesty's ships should at the same time

prevent the Russian operations by sea in Gulf of Saros and in Gulf of Enos and in Sea of Marmora. The Peninsula could thus be held until the arrival of British troops would place it in complete safety, and secure the navigation of the Dardanelles. 14,000 out of 22,000 Turkish troops now at Bulair and Gallipoli are believed to be good and seasoned soldiers.

Suleiman Pasha has been withdrawn from Gallipoli, and a General sent in his place who, I am assured, is trustworthy.

No. 759.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 238.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 17, 1878, 7·25 P.M.

SULTAN told me to-day that he was thinking of sending a Special Envoy to Emperor of Russia to endeavour to hasten conclusion of peace.

No. 760.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February* 17, 1878, 6·30 P.M.

THE Italian Government will urge on Russian Government expediency of immediate meeting of the Conference.

(Very Confidential.) M. Depretis denies most emphatically that the Italian Government had been persuaded by Prince Bismarck not to send ships to Constantinople, and that the policy of Italy would be guided by Germany and Russia. I did not mention that these reports come from Mr. Layard.

His Excellency has had no communication from the German Government about the ships. All he knows is, that though at Berlin, his Highness is invisible. He has always told German Government that Italy has immense interests at stake in settlement of the Eastern question, the principal of which is that the liberty of communication through the Straits and Bosphorus with the Black Sea should be assured, and consequently that Russia should not be predominant through that passage.

M. Depretis says that his efforts are directed to obtaining the unity of the action among all the Powers in sending ships to Constantinople, but he is without an answer from either Berlin or Paris. Italy cannot act alone with England in this matter, as her naval power does not enable her to do so. He says that Austrian ships are at Syra, which does not look as if Austria is very serious about sending them through the Dardanelles. The Italian squadron now at Salonica will shortly be moved up to Besika Bay.

Telegram dated yesterday, from Count de Robilant, states that there are greater hopes of a pacific solution owing to Prince Bismarck's counsels of moderation at St. Petersburgh. I told M. Depretis that Prince Gortchakow had refused to give Lord A. Loftus any assurance respecting the occupation of Gallipoli. Speaking unofficially, his Excellency asked whether sufficient forces cannot be sent at once to occupy that Peninsula.

No. 761.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February* 17, 1878, 11·30 P.M.

I AM privately informed that Russian force to occupy Constantinople consists of 30,000 men.

No. 762.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18, 1 P.M.)

(No. 230.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 18, 1878, 9·30 A.M.

CAPTAIN FIFE reports that on the 13th, 3,500 Russians have moved upon Sharkeui with two cannon, drawn by oxen, and some mountain-guns.

On the 14th, many bullocks were being collected, presumably to bring heavy artillery from Kesban: and Captain Fife considers the transport of heavy guns proof of intention to operate in the direction of Gallipoli Peninsula.

Judging from report received from Rodosto, it is possible that the usage of bullocks may be from scarcity of horses.

No. 763.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 240.) *Pera, February* 18, 1878, 11 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

CAPTAIN of Turkish ship "Pamaya Mughazie Tissa," seized here for breach of blockade, states before Prize Court that vessel put into Berdiansk before establishment of blockade for repairs, and subsequently sailed for Constantinople with cargo of barley with authorization of English Consul. Porte requests that inquiries may be made of that officer by telegraph as to the truth of this statement.

No. 764.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(Confidential.) *Berlin, February* 18, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Mr. Layard's telegram of the 16th instant, German Government have decided not to ask for firman of passage for German ships to Constantinople, because Prince Reuss reports that no ship is required there at present.

Besides which, if the Russians should occupy Constantinople, they would, no doubt, assume protectorate of the German subjects and interests for German Government, as Prince Reuss has hitherto done for the Russian Government.

No. 765.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, February* 18, 1878.
(Secret.)

I HAVE endeavoured to find out whether the German Emperor is endeavouring to bring about improved relations between Austria and Russia, but have hitherto only been able to ascertain that His Majesty has twice written privately to the Emperor of Austria after receiving private letters from Czar.

No. 766.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, February* 18, 1878.

EXCLUSIVE of troops passing through and in hospital establishments, there are 11,800 Russian troops in Roumania, scattered about in different localities. No indication whatever of positions being taken upon the Austrian frontier.

No. 767.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18, 1·40 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February* 18, 1878, 11·25 A.M.

LAST evening before last, immediately on the receipt of my letter, French Minister for Foreign Affairs sent by telegraph to the French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh instructions to press upon the Russian Government the importance of assembling the Conference at once.

He telegraphed also to Vienna.

He considers that it lies with Austrian Government, from whom the invitation proceeded, to expedite arrangements, and above all to ascertain the views of Russia with regard to the programme.

He thinks that until an understanding has been come to about the programme no real progress can be made.

No. 768.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February* 18, 1878, 12·55 P.M.

A TELEGRAM just received by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs from the French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh reports, as follows, the language held to him:—

"Emperor has already given proofs of moderation by not occupying Gallipoli.

"The English fleet having retired to Monkania, the occupation of Constantinople has not yet actually taken place, but it is maintained in principle: the Russian troops are held in readiness to march, and they will advance at once to Constantinople if a negative answer is returned by Her Britannic Majesty to a request which the Sultan has made for the withdrawal of Her Majesty's fleet from the Sea of Marmora."

French Ambassador thinks that notwithstanding excitement of press and of the public in Russia, the Government itself is very desirous of keeping at peace with England.

No. 769.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1878, 2·45 P.M.

URGE the Porte to sell to Her Majesty's Government the frigate "Hamidieh," lying in the Victoria Docks, London.

She was offered to the Admiralty repeatedly last year.

Her Majesty's Government are now willing to buy her at the full contract price—440,000*l.*

No. 770.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Embassies.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1878, 5 P.M.

FOLLOWING is a translation of Memorandum communicated by Count Schouvaloff to-day:—

"Prince Gortchakow authorizes me by telegraph to declare to your Excellency that the Imperial Cabinet maintains its promise not to occupy Gallipoli nor to enter the lines of Bulair.

"The Imperial Cabinet expects in return that no English troops should be landed on the Asiatic or European coast."

No. 771.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1878, 6·15 P.M.

TURKISH Ambassador has communicated to me a telegram from the Porte stating that the Greeks had again invaded the country, and had yesterday carried their devastations as far as Arta.

Is this report correct?

No. 772.

The Earl of Derby to the Vice-Consul at Berdiansk.

Foreign Office, February 18, 1878.

(Telegraphic.) FOLLOWING telegram received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

[Repeat No. 763.]

Make inquiries, and report by telegraph.

No. 773.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 26.) *Vienna, February* 18, 1878, 6·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.) UPON your Lordship's proposal to urge upon the Russian Government the importance of an early meeting of the Congress, Count Andrassy will at once propose to the Russian and other Governments that it should be convened to meet at Baden-Baden towards the end of first week in March.

Count Andrassy says that Prince Gortchakow made a point that it should be called a Congress and not a Conference.

He does not, however, expect that Prince Bismarck will attend, and considers that the designation of Congress does not imply that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs must take part in it.

No. 774.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, February 18, 1878, 6·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.) HER Majesty's Government approve language reported in your telegram of 15th, as to expediency of sending Austrian men-of-war to join British ships in Sea of Marmora.

No. 775.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, February 18, 1878, 8·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.) MUSURUS PASHA communicated further telegram from Sultan to the Queen, reiterating demand for withdrawal of fleet, and stating that otherwise Russians will enter, and that their presence would be inevitable danger to Sultan's person. Sultan has to inform Emperor of Russia of the answer. Musurus was to urge upon Her Majesty's Government necessity of one of three courses:—(1) to prevent Russian occupation; (2) to withdraw fleet; (3) to make common cause with Porte.

Musurus said that, in Sultan's desperate position, he might have to throw himself into arms of Russia.

After the Cabinet, I told Musurus that we could not withdraw fleet or make common cause with Porte, though our attitude would always be friendly. We had used and were using our utmost influence to prevent entry into Constantinople.

No. 776.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

Foreign Office, February 18, 1878.

(Telegraphic.) IF the statement made by Prince Bismarck, reported in your telegram of the 17th instant, is to be taken seriously, it is a very important one. It seems to indicate that Germany would desert Austria should the alliance of the three Emperors break up.

Moreover, the mention of the Trentino implies that Italy would join Russia against Austria.

It is scarcely possible to suppose that Prince Bismarck is ignorant of what passes between the Emperor of Germany and the other Emperors in a matter of such importance, and difficult to believe that the Emperor of Austria is playing a double part.

Can you not elicit some further and clearer statements from Prince Bismarck?

They would of course be treated as secret, and not appear in a Blue Book.

Can you also find out the object of the mission on which, as reported in the newspapers, General Manteuffel has been sent to St. Petersburgh?

No. 777.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Lord Odo Russell is sent to you for any observations you may have to make on it:—

[See No. 727[a].]

No. 778.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 152.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 145 of the 15th instant, in which I transmitted to your Excellency a copy of a Memorandum which I had given to Count Schouvaloff indicating the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to a possible occupation by Russian troops of the Peninsula of Gallipoli, or of the forts of the Dardanelles, I have to inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a Memorandum which I have this day received from Count Schouvaloff, stating that he has been authorized by Prince Gortchakow, by telegraph, to declare that the Imperial Cabinet maintains its promise not to occupy Gallipoli, nor to enter the lines of Bulair; but that the Imperial Cabinet expects in return that no English troops will be landed on the Asiatic or European coasts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 779.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 246.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1878.

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to urge the Porte to sell to Her Majesty's Government the frigate "Hamidieh," now lying in the Victoria Docks at Leamion.

This vessel was repeatedly offered to the Admiralty last year, and Her Majesty's Government are now willing to buy her at the full contract price, namely, 440,000*l.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 780.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 250.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1878.

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this morning and placed in my hands a telegram conveying a message from the Sultan to the Queen, in which His Majesty repeats his request for the withdrawal of the British fleet, stating that the entry of Russian troops into Constantinople, which is threatened in the contrary event, will entail personal danger to himself.

Musurus Pasha said that he had instructions to impress upon Her Majesty's Government, in the most earnest manner, the absolute necessity that Her Majesty's Government should take one of three courses.

Either that they should take steps to prevent the Russian troops from entering Constantinople, which was considered by the Porte as a step absolutely ruinous to the future of the Empire, or that they should withdraw the British fleet from the Sea of Marmora and beyond the Dardanelles; or, lastly, that they should make common cause with the Porte, and save it from further aggression.

Musurus Pasha spoke of the desperate position in which the Sultan was placed, and of the possibility of his being compelled, in the absence of any other resource, to throw himself unreservedly into the arms of Russia.

I told his Excellency that I would lose no time in laying this communication before my colleagues.

I saw Musurus Pasha again in the afternoon after the Cabinet had met, and I told him that, under present circumstances, Her Majesty's Government could not consent to withdraw the British ships from the Sea of Marmora.

Nor could Her Majesty's Government undertake to make common cause with the Porte against Russia, though our attitude towards Turkey would always be friendly.

On the other hand, I assured his Excellency that we had used, and were using, our utmost influence to prevent the entry of Russian troops into Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 781.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 132.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1878.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you have held to the Austrian Government, as reported in your telegram of yesterday, in regard to the expediency of at once dispatching Austrian ships of war to join the British squadron at Prince's Islands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 782.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 133. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1878.

I SHALL be glad to receive any observations which your Excellency may have to make upon the statements of Prince Bismarck, reported by Lord Odo Russell in the telegram dated yesterday, of which a copy is inclosed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 783.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 86. Secret.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1878.

YOUR Excellency stated in your secret telegram of yesterday that Prince Bismarck had observed to you that, though he believed Count Andrassy to be sincerely willing to support England, he did not think that the Emperor of Austria would be disposed to support his Minister in risking a war with Russia. The Prince had added that the three Emperors were in constant personal and private correspondence with each other without the knowledge, and behind the backs of their Ministers, and that it was difficult to know what arrangements were being settled through these confidential communications; but he had expressed his conviction that as Austria was less prepared for war than Russia the effect of her engaging in hostilities would probably be the immediate loss to her of Galicia, and perhaps also of the Trentino.

If this statement is to be taken as seriously representing the Chancellor's views it is of the highest importance; and the further statement that in case of the outbreak of war Germany, though she would object to a Russian occupation of Moravia or Bohemia, would remain neutral seems, when taken in connection with the preceding observations, to indicate that Germany would desert Austria if the alliance of the three Emperors should be broken up.

The mention of the possible loss of the Trentino is of great significance, as it implies that Prince Bismarck considers that Italy would take part with Russia against Austria.

It is scarcely possible to suppose that Prince Bismarck is ignorant of what passes between the Emperor of Germany and the Emperors of Austria and Russia on a matter of such importance, and it is difficult to believe that the double part attributed to the Emperor of Austria is really being played by His Imperial Majesty.

Would it not be possible for your Excellency to elicit from his Highness further and clearer statements in explanation of those which you have recorded? If he should be disposed to throw more light upon the matters upon which he has touched you could assure him that anything he might say would be considered secret, and that he need not fear the publication of his remarks in a Blue Book.

It has been reported in some of the newspapers that General Manteuffel has been sent on a special mission to St. Petersburgh; I should wish your Excellency to inform me whether the report is true, and, if so, what is the object of the mission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 784.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.[*]

(No. 87.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1878.

I INCLOSE to your Excellency a copy of a Memorandum communicated to me to-day by Count Schouvaloff,[†] stating that the Russians will not occupy Gallipoli, nor enter the lines of Bulair, and that they expect, in return, that no British troops shall be landed on the Asiatic or European coast.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 785.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 27.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a telegram which the Turkish Ambassador has received from the Porte,[‡] and which his Excellency has communicated to me, stating that the Greeks had again invaded Turkish territory, and had carried their devastation as far as Artn.

I have to instruct you to report to me whether this statement is correct.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 786.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1878.

IN reply to your letter of the 16th instant, stating that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty had been informed by the Commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean squadron that with the concurrence of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, he was going to Mondania, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will

[*] A similar despatch was addressed to Sir H. Elliot. [†] No. 749.
[‡] No. 688.

state to their Lordships, that his Lordship sees no objection to the fleet remaining at Mondania, so long as circumstances do not require its presence elsewhere, but that discretion in the matter should be left to the Admiral.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 787.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 11. Political.)
My Lord, *Beyrout, February 4, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch, with its inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador, reporting on the present condition of the Bulgarian prisoners at Acre and Beyrout.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 787.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Beyrout, February 4, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, notwithstanding the care and attention shown towards the Bulgarian prisoners at Acre, six more of them have died in the temporary hospital at the Greek Convent, so that out of the original seventy-six only fifty-one remain, showing a mortality of one-third of their number within a month.

I am, however, informed that the survivors are doing well, thanks to the improved nourishment, lodging, and medical attendance they have received. By the kind consent of the authorities, some of the Bulgarian prisoners who were sent to Acre during the summer have, on account of illness, been removed from the prison to the temporary hospital, where they are being attended to with the others, but of these I am informed that three or four have died.

I have the honour to inclose translations of two letters which I have received from Acre testifying to the zealous humanity displayed by Mr. Gebrau Abela in the care he has taken of these unfortunate victims of the war; and this testimony is fully confirmed by information which has reached me from other sources. I consider that the services of Mr. Abela in this matter deserve some recognition.

The ten Bulgarians who remained at Beyrout are all progressing favourably, and are being carefully attended to in the military hospital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 787.

The Greek Orthodox Christians of Acre to Consul-General Eldridge.

(Traduction.)

NOUS, Chrétiens domiciliés à Saint-Jean d'Acre, avons l'honneur d'exposer qu'il nous est impossible de décrire la peine et la douleur qui nous ont frappées lorsque nous vîmes arriver chez nous nos frères les Bulgares que le Gouvernement avait exilés en cette ville. Ils sont arrivés dans un état de misère frappant à la suite des fatigues et des souffrances qu'ils ont éprouvées en route. Le fait est qu'avant d'arriver à leur place de destination plusieurs parmi eux succombèrent, et ceux qui arrivèrent vivants, les uns étaient malades et les autres en état d'extrême faiblesse.

La Providence Divine vous a ému de venir à l'aide de ces infortunés et vous avez ordonné Mr. Gabriel Abela, qui se trouve ici en mission de votre part, de s'empresser à leur fournir les soins voulus et soulager leur misère.

Mr. Abela, renommé pour son habileté et intelligence, s'est acquitté de cette tâche

d'une manière brillante. Il s'est rendu en personne au galère pour visiter et examiner les prisonniers, et après s'être assuré de leur triste position, il s'est empressé d'en entretenir notre Gouverneur, et le pria de lui permettre de les faire transporter ailleurs pour sauver leurs vies. Le Gouverneur, plein de miséricorde, accueillit la demande de Mr. Abela avec faveur et celui-ci les a fait transporter de suite au couvent Greco-Orthodoxe, où il les a installé dans des apartements confortables sous la surveillance d'un homme de confiance qu'il a appointé afin de pourvoir à leurs besoins. Il a également fait venir des médecins pour soigner leurs maladies. Il a fourni des vêtements, des matelats, des couvertures, et des provisions de bouche en quantité. Il ne cesse pas de se rendre auprès d'eux plusieurs fois par jour pour voir si tout marche bien et pour recommander les médecins de les bien soigner; et il a toujours adressé les malades avec douceur et bénignité, ce qui a contribué beaucoup à leur consolation.

Nous sommes convaincus, M. le Consul-Général, que vous êtes la source de tous ces bienfaits, et nous venons par la présente vous exprimer nos sentiments de haute gratitude et d'obligeance, priant le bon Dieu de vous récompenser pour vos œuvres de charité.

[Suivent les signatures et les cachets de 91 personnes.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 787.

Bishop Agabios of Acre to Consul-General Eldridge.

Le 28 Janvier, 1878.

C'EST avec un vif plaisir que j'ai appris le bienveillant appui que vous avez bien voulu déployer en faveur des Bulgares Chrétiens qui ont été exilés par le Gouvernement, et qui sont arrivés ici dans un état pitoyable à la suite des maladies, des fatignes, et du mauvais traitement qu'ils ont éprouvés en route, où plusieurs succombèrent avant d'arriver à leur place de destination.

L'appui précieux que vous avez eu l'obligeance de leur étendre, par l'entremise de Mr. Gabriel Abela, a été exécuté avec prudence et énergie, et a eu un effet éclatant, car en peu de jours l'état des dits personnes s'est amélioré sensiblement, et ils se sont trouvés bien soulagés.

Il est donc de mon devoir, M. le Consul-Général, de vous exprimer mes meilleurs remercîments pour votre zèle Chrétien envers ces infortunés.

No. 788.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(No 147. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, February 16, 1878.*

ACCORDING to arrangements made with M. Depretis the previous day, I called upon his Excellency yesterday afternoon in order to ascertain the resolution at which the Council of Ministers had arrived upon the question of sending Italian ships to Constantinople.

M. Depretis had, however, left the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and I consequently could not see him until this afternoon, when his Excellency informed me that the Council had discussed the matter in all its bearings, and had come to the resolution that it was desirable that some Italian ships should be sent; and that if the Firman asked for by the Austro-Hungarian Government was granted, the Italian Government would have the right to insist upon its being accorded to Italian ships also. But M. Depretis said they could not take any further decision in the matter until they had information as to the reply which had been given to the Austrian demand, and until they received an answer from the other Governments with whom they had communicated on this subject. M. Depretis informed me that he was without any news from any quarter whatever to-day; and, in reply to an inquiry I made, stated that he had not heard that the Austrian demand had been refused. The last news which he had received on this subject from Count Corti, dated three days ago, was that the Porte had stated that it reserved its reply until the question had been settled with England, a phrase which his Excellency could only interpret as a means for gaining time, for with England the question seemed to him to be settled already by the ships being at Constantinople.

I may mention that my Austro-Hungarian colleague, whom I met this morning, informed me that he had not heard from his Government that Firman had been refused.

In replying to M. Depretis, I endeavoured to convince his Excellency that as the Porte had allowed some of Her Majesty's ships to pass it could not now oppose those of any other country; and that it was most desirable, if only for the sake of depriving the presence of the British ships near Constantinople of any appearance of exclusiveness, that the ships of other Powers should also go there. The Porte might possibly protest, I said, as they had done in the case of the British ships; but, in reality, it might be a service which the other Powers were rendering to the Sultan.

M. Depretis said that he fully appreciated the importance of the other Powers being represented by their navies at Constantinople at this moment; but there was a great difference, he said, between the position of England and Italy in regard to this matter. England might afford to disregard the protest of the Porte, and if resistance had been offered, her ships could have silenced the Turkish batteries; but it was not so certain if the Italian ships could do so.

M. Depretis informed me that he had reason to hope that the French and also the German Governments would be ready to send some ships if the Firman was granted to Austria; but without the concurrence of these Powers I think it most unlikely that the Italian Government can be prevailed upon to act.

I read to M. Depretis your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, recording the Memorandum communicated to Count Schouvaloff respecting the manner in which any attempt on the part of Russia to occupy the peninsula of Gallipoli or the forts of the Dardanelles would be regarded by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 789.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received February* 19.)

Admiralty, February 18, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your letter of the 15th instant, inclosing copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, with copies of reports from Commander Hamond of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," relative to the expenses incurred in the relief of fugitives conveyed by him from Bourghaz, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Derby, that my Lords have already expressed their entire approval of Commander Hamond's proceedings, as suggested by Mr. Layard.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 790.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received February* 19.)

Admiralty, February 18, 1878.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a letter dated the 1st instant from Commander Hamond of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," which has been forwarded by Vice-Admiral Hornby, reporting his proceedings at Rodosto, where he had gone at the request of Mr. Layard.

These papers being sent in original, it is requested that they be returned when done with, observing that copies will be supplied if required.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 790.

Commander Hamond to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

"*Torch*," *at Constantinople, February* 1, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on receipt of a letter from his Excellency the Ambassador (a copy of which is inclosed), I left Constantinople on the evening of the 26th ultimo, and proceeded to Rodosto; through stress of weather I was obliged to anchor in Paluten Bay, Island of Marmora. On the 28th proceeded to Rodosto, and communicated with the Vice-Consul. The town was crowded with refugees from the interior, both Turks and Circassians, with their families.

Remained at that anchorage until the evening of the 30th, when having received a telegram from his Excellency authorizing me to do so, I returned to this port.

When I left Rodosto, the greater part of the refugees had been embarked on board steamers employed by the Ottoman authorities.

No disturbances had occurred in the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICH. H. HAMOND.

Inclosure 2 in No. 790.

Mr. Layard to Commander Hamond.

Constantinople, January 26, 1878.

Sir,

I SHOULD feel much obliged to you if you could, previous to your return to Bourgas, visit Rodosto, where it is reported disturbances of a serious nature have occurred, and the lives and property of the inhabitants are in danger, owing to the incursion of irregular troops and Circassians, and to ascertain and report to me as to the truth of the alleged outrages committed. Your presence there will no doubt be useful in restoring public tranquillity, and in allaying the panic which appears at present to prevail.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 791.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 19.)

Athens, February 18, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs assured me to-day that since withdrawal of Greek army no regular troops had crossed the frontiers, and the Turkish Minister has also informed me that neither Imperial provincial authorities nor Turkish Consular authorities have reported to him passage of regular troops into Epirus, but that bands of armed volunteers continue to leave Greece for Turkey.

There is no doubt that bands of volunteers continue to be raised and that Greece is continuing her armaments.

No. 792.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 19.)

Vienna, February 18, 1878.

(No. 20.)

(Telegraphic.)

I UNDERSTAND from Count Andrassy that he is continuing to press the Porte to give the Firman for the passage of two ships through the Dardanelles, but the Porte still hesitates, and points to the movement of the British fleet to Mondania as proof that there is no necessity for it.

I said that the fleet is, and will remain, above the fortresses, its position being practically the same as when at Prince's Islands; and I could not understand why, if the Firman is not given, the Austrian ships should not come up as ours did.

He dwelt upon the difference, which I refused to admit, between the passage of the

Straits without a Firman by a powerful fleet like ours and by two vessels, which are all the Austrians have there.

No. 793.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 241.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 18, 1878.*

SULTAN has not been able to answer the [three?] questions I put to him yesterday, but Prime Minister states that if within thirteen days—that is to say, before Emperor's birthday—all the demands of Russia were not acceded to, these demands being much harder than bases of peace already accepted by Turkey, Porte had strong grounds, if not fair warning, for apprehending Russian occupation of Constantinople in great force, inasmuch as it was the Emperor's will only which now deterred Russian army from at once marching on the capital, Grand Duke Nicholas, General Ignatiew, and the whole army being strongly in favour of this movement.

In face of coming catastrophe, which England was neither in time nor in a position to avert, with hardly any troops at Malta, and only four ships here, he felt it to be his duty to endeavour to save the lives of surviving Mussulman population, which would certainly not be spared in the event of the slightest excuse being furnished to Russians to march into Constantinople.

His Highness concluded by alluding to harsh demands put forward by Russia regarding expulsion of remaining Mussulman population from New Bulgaria, which, he incidentally added, will not include Adrianople, this being a concession recently made to the Turkish Representatives apparently in consequence of the Greek movement.

He could not, however, help considering Bosnia as entirely lost to Turkey, since under the arrangements proposed by Russia that province will be cut off from all communication with the rest of the Empire.

Sadyk Pasha will shortly leave for St. Petersburgh on a special mission from the Sultan to the Emperor.

No. 794.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 18, 1878.*

I AM privately informed that 300 torpedoes, in charge of officers from torpedo school, are on the point of being sent down to the south.

No. 795.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 18, 1878.*

IN reply to my inquiry concerning Doctors Leslie, Neville, and Armand, M. Giers informs me that, by information received from head-quarters, Doctors Leslie, Neville, and Kirkpatrick, as also a Mr Bell, had, contrary to orders of General Gourko, been treated as prisoners of war and had been exposed to ill-treatment. He expresses regret of Commander-in-chief, who had given orders for rigorous inquiry and severe punishment of delinquents. I presume, therefore, that they are the persons referred to by Mr. Layard, and had consequently reached Constantinople. No mention is made of Armand.

No. 796.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, February 19, 1878.*

THERE is no foundation for newspaper report of General Manteuffel's mission to Russia. He assisted at the wedding festivities last night.

No. 797.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, February 19, 1878.*

I HAVE sent the following to Constantinople:—

"I have received the following from 'Times' correspondent at Platano in Thessaly: 'There are 500 or 600 Greek insurgents and irregulars. The Turks in Armyro are 3,000. We expect an attack about 4 o'clock. The women and children cannot be all sent away before to-morrow night. Should not the Greek regulars come out to escort them? It is pitiable. Could not a Commissioner accompany the troops to see that they will not fight?'"

I have telegraphed to British Vice-Consul at Larissa as follows:—

"(Private).—'Times' correspondent at Platano telegraphs to me that 500 or 600 Greek insurgents and irregulars are expecting to be attacked by Turks at once; that the women and children cannot be all sent away before to-night. Can you prevail upon Turkish authorities to allow women and children to be conveyed to place of safety before attack?'"

And to "Times" correspondent as follows:—

"I have telegraphed to British Vice-Consul at Larissa to ask him if he can prevail upon Turkish authorities to allow women and children to be conveyed to place of safety before attack. I have taken this step inspired by feelings of humanity."

No. 798.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 242.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 19, 1878.*

SERVER PASHA, in consequence of his published statement, has been dismissed from his post of Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 799.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, February 19, 1878.*

I HAVE been informed that new accoutrements are being sent to the Guards at front from St. Petersburgh. It is thought, in order to make a better show at Constantinople.

No. 800.

Vice-Consul Lowe to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rodosto, February 19, 1878.*

TURKISH ship 'Panaghia Magnesitissa,' loaded with wheat at Rodosto for Syra October last, after lying here twelve months under repair. Ship received permission to load from Custom-house authorities, and also certificate from me.

No. 801.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 19, 1878, 9.40 p.m.*

ADMIRALTY have completed agreement with Eastern Telegraph Company for laying cable between Tenedos and Scio, to open direct communication with England.

Telegraph Company will maintain staff to work cable, which will probably be ready for use on the 20th instant.

Obtain from Porte the necessary permission for landing cable at Tenedos.

No. 802.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 19, 1878, 3·45 P.M.

ASK Count Andrassy what he thinks of the demand put forward by Russia for the expulsion of the whole Mussulman population from Bulgaria.

No. 803.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 19, 1878, 4·20 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 241, try to find out what the new terms are on which Russia is insisting.

No. 804.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Ambassadors.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 19, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, I have given Memorandum to Count Schouvaloff expressing satisfaction at confirmation of assurance that Russia will not occupy Gallipoli Peninsula or Bulair lines, and engaging on the part of Her Majesty's Government not to land troops on European side of the Straits, and offering to extend this engagement to Asiatic side on receiving assurance that Russia will not occupy that side.

No. 805.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 19, 1878.

THE German Ambassador informs me that his Government have agreed to the proposal that the Conference should meet at Baden-Baden, and that the beginning of March should be fixed for the time of meeting.

No. 806.

Memorandum for Count Schouvaloff.

Foreign Office, February 19, 1878.

HER Majesty's Government have received with much satisfaction the confirmation of the assurance of the Russian Government that they do not intend to occupy the Peninsula of Gallipoli, and the statement that in this assurance are included the lines of Bulair.

Her Majesty's Government are, on their part, ready to meet this assurance by a corresponding engagement not to land troops on the European side of the Straits, and they are prepared to extend this engagement to the Asiatic side of the Straits, upon receiving from the Russian Government an assurance, which Her Majesty's Government cannot doubt is in principle included in what has been already said, that the Russian Government also will not occupy that side of the Straits.

No. 807.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 252.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 19, 1878.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 241 of yesterday's date, reporting that the Prime Minister had stated to you that the demands of Russia were much harder than the bases of peace already accepted by the Porte, I have to instruct you to endeavour to ascertain what are the new terms on which Russia is insisting.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 808.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.[a]

(No. 93.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 19, 1878.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that I have been informed by the German Ambassador at this Court, that the German Government have agreed to the proposal that the Conference should be held at Baden-Baden, and that the time to be fixed for its meeting should be the beginning of March.

am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 809.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 137.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 19, 1878.

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to inquire what are the views entertained by Count Andrassy respecting the demand which is stated to have been put forward by Russia for the expulsion from Bulgaria of the entire Mussulman population of the Province.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 810.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.†

(No. 130.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 19, 1878.

I INCLOSE copy of a Memorandum which I have given to Count Schouvaloff in reply to his communication of yesterday, respecting the non-occupation of either shore of the Dardanelles by Russian or British troops.‡

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 811.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.§

(No. 154.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 19, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. of yesterday's date, I transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of a Memorandum which I have given to the Russian Ambassador at this Court,‡ expressing the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the confirmation which they have received from the Imperial Government of the

[a] Similar despatches were addressed to Mr. Layard, Lord A. Loftus, Sir H. Elliot, Lord Lyons, and Sir A. Paget.

† An Identic despatch was addressed to Lord Odo Russell. ‡ No. 806.

§ Identic despatches to other Embassies.

assurance that neither the Peninsula of Gallipoli nor the lines of Bulair will be occupied by Russian forces; and engaging on the part of Her Majesty's Government not to land troops on the European side of the Straits, and offering to extend this engagement to the Asiatic side on receiving an assurance from the Imperial Government that Russia will not occupy that side.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 812.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 13. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the four Articles embodying the fresh demands which the Cretan Christians have drawn up, and which were stated in my despatch No. 10 of the 29th ultimo, were presented to the Imperial Commissioners on the 3rd instant. The latter told the Committee and Delegates that they were not authorized to discuss demands which differed widely from those which they were come to treat about, and they attempted in vain to dissuade them from making such extravagant proposals. Finally, the Commissioners offered to refer the subject to Constantinople, and the Committee agreed to a delay of a week for the answer to be given by the Porte. That term expires to-morrow evening, and great apprehension exists lest the Christians may take steps which will compel the Government to have recourse to repressive measures in order to vindicate its authority.

The Kaimakam of the Caza of Sphakia has at last been recalled from his post, and he arrived here a few days ago by sea with the 200 regular and the 80 irregular troops which had hitherto sufficed for his protection. Intimation seems to have been received that he would shortly be attacked by the Sphakiotes. The Mutessarif of the Sandjak of Sphakia still remains at his head-quarters in Vamos of Apokoronn, where two battalions are stationed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 813.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 14. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February 8, 1878.*

ON the 4th instant the announcement was received here of the appointment of Costaki Pasha as Vali of Crete. His Excellency returned from Apokorona, where he had been conferring with the Committee the following morning, and immediately entered upon the duties of his new post. Some months ago this appointment would have contributed a good deal to soften the asperity of the popular feeling towards the Porte, as it would have been regarded as evincing a desire on its part to put the Christians on an equality with the Mussulmans. Now it is to be feared that matters have gone too far to be patched up by a measure of this kind.

The very last act of Samik Pasha was of a nature greatly to augment the difficulties of his successor. Reports having been brought in that a Christian Chief, with a band of 50 men, had passed through the Christian villages of Peribolio and Murnies, situated three or four miles from the town, Samih Pasha immediately began arming the Mussulmans of the town, from 500 to 600 Peabody-Martini rifles being distributed indiscriminately amongst the mob, and his Excellency telegraphed to the Governors of Candia and Rethymo to arm the Mussulmans of those towns also. Thus armed, they immediately dispersed themselves over the surrounding country, spreading terror amongst the Christian portion of the inhabitants. One band betook itself to the large village of Galata. This village, which contains some 150 Christian families, had already lost more than half of its inhabitants by flight, and a company of regular soldiers had been stationed there as a protection for those who remained. As soon as the band entered the village, they proceeded to the house of the principal inhabitant, broke it open, planted the Turkish colours on the roof, and collecting what poor furniture was found in the rooms, made a bonfire of it in the court-yard. A few other houses were also broken open by the band. As the 80 regular soldiers looked on with unconcern at these proceedings, the inhabitants, hastily gathering together their scanty household stuff, fled with all speed to the nearest mountain villages, but they were pursued, overtaken, and robbed of much they had managed to carry away. I immediately went to see Costaki Pasha, and begged his Excellency to put a stop to the further distribution of arms. He deeply deplored the step taken by Samih Pasha, which he evidently suspected had been designed to create embarrassment for himself; and calling the Colonel of Gendarmerie into his presence, peremptorily forbad any more arms to be given out. At the same time he ordered him to go and verify the report I had just brought him of the licence committed in Galata, and to restore order without delay. The Colonel returned the same evening, and made a statement which quite bore out that which I had given to his Excellency. The next morning Costaki Pasha called together the principal Mussulman inhabitants, and commented in very earnest language on the evils which the conduct of the armed rabble was likely to bring on the Island, reminding them that it was the ruffianly acts committed in Bulgaria by Bashi-Bazouks of the same class which had alienated the sympathy of the Christian Powers. His Excellency's remarks seem to have been well received by his audience, and he then proceeded to form a Special Commission, composed of members of both religious communities, at which his Excellency will preside in person, for the trial of those guilty of similar licence. The ringleaders of the attack on Galata have been arrested, and will be tried by the new Court. The total disarmament of these men the Vali hardly dares to attempt, but will leave that matter to be disposed of by Mehemet Ali Pasha, the new Military Governor.

The impression is everywhere gaining ground that some Christian Chiefs are meditating an attack on some detachments of troops in a very few days, if no answer to the demands of the Committee is returned within the week. They are being incessantly urged to action by the Greek Consul, who, on being expostulated with for his conduct by Mr. Vice-Consul Menzzo, told him he was only acting in accordance with his instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 814.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 15. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February 11, 1878.*

I LEARN that a large meeting of the leading Mussulmans of Canea, and of the refugees from the surrounding districts, was convened on the 9th instant, in the large school-room belonging to their community, and that a resolution was come to to telegraph to the Grand Vizier to the effect that the Moslems of Crete, who, though numerically inferior to the Christians, are individually the largest landowners and the principal merchants, strongly deprecate their country being formed into an autonomous State or a Principality. A telegram in this sense was accordingly dispatched. There was some wild talk in the meeting as to their intention, in case their wishes were not respected, of inclosing themselves in, and seizing upon the fortified towns of Candia, Rethymo, and Canea, and of throwing off their allegiance to the Sultan. They deputed a Christian of some position here to call upon me, and privately to inform me that it was the unanimous wish of the leading Moslems in Canea, in case the Porte should grant the demands presented by the Christian Committee to the Ottoman Commissioners, to offer their allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and he hinted that, in case of their fears being realised, a deputation would wait upon me for the purpose of formally expressing their views on this subject. I told the gentleman who brought me this message that it was no business of mine to receive a deputation of that kind, and that I could not encourage the idea it would be commissioned to declare. He further stated, which I had no difficulty in believing, that should it be decided that the Island be annexed to Greece, the desire of the Cretan Mussulmans to place themselves under the protection of Great Britain would be still more strongly pronounced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH

No. 815.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 16. Political.)
Canea, Crete, February 11, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship of the arrival in Suda Bay on the 8th instant of a battalion of Nizam from Bengazé. They belong to the 7th Regiment of the 1st Army Corps, have been stationed in Bengazé for some years, and are on their way to Antivari. In consequence, however, of the conclusion of the armistice, this battalion, which is only 500 strong, will remain here until further orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 816.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 17. Political. Confidential.)
Canea, Crete, February 11, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that my Greek colleague received, on the 9th instant, a ciphered telegram from his Government, stating that, in deference to the Great Powers, the national troops had been withdrawn from Turkish soil, the right of Greece to representation in the coming Congress having been recognized. Thus much the Greek Consul has publicly given out, but I am informed on good authority that the telegram added that he must continue to follow the same policy as had already been indicated to him. As that policy has consisted in inciting the people to make an armed demonstration, and to proclaim the annexation of the Island to Greece, the sedative effect which the news of the retirement of the Greek troops would naturally have produced is likely to be neutralized. My colleague has displayed throughout this crisis such a want of the discretion usually observed by Government Agents in carrying out instructions of the kind confided to him, that his acts and words are known and repeated in every place of public resort. The sums of money distributed by him to leaders of influence are even mentioned, and there can no longer be any doubt that considerable sums have been received by him for the purpose of gaining over adherents to the party which is in favour of union with Greece. Although a majority of the Cretans have pronounced for what they are pleased to call an autonomy, but which is really a Principality, most of the Chiefs who have any considerable following, partly gained over by largesses, and partly from more honourable motives, are in favour of the Island being annexed to Greece, and already the Greek flag has been unfurled in Selino, Kissamos, and other districts. These Chiefs are constantly receiving accessions of strength in the shape of arms and munitions of war. The steamer "Panhellenion," which frequently ran the blockade during the last insurrection, landed a large quantity of arms last week on the Sphakian Coast, and she is expected to return on a similar errand in a few days.

An Ottoman war steamer fell in with two boats laden with arms on the 8th instant at a place called Phodele, near Candia, and succeeded in sinking one; but on approaching the coast to attack the other, hundreds of armed men on the rocks kept her at a distance with their rifles until they had secured its cargo.

I have just learned that the Delegates from the western districts of Selino, Kissamos, Canea, and Apokorona yesterday proceeded to vote for the annexation of the Island to Greece in opposition to the wishes of the other Delegates. The contention was so sharp between them, that the latter, who represent all the eastern and central districts as well as Sphakia, and who comprise two-thirds of the Delegates, separated themselves from their colleagues, and retired from Fré, in Apokorona, to a village further east, called Argyropolis. These adhere to the propositions presented to the Commissioners, and decline to renounce them until at least the arrival of to-morrow's steamer shall throw more light on the situation abroad. This precipitation on the part of the former party is due to the urgent advice of the Greek Government to proclaim annexation to Greece without a moment's delay. They are likewise counselled to avoid doing anything which might bring them into collision with the Turkish troops, and, in particular, to abstain from doing any harm to their Mussulman fellow-countrymen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—*February* 12.—His Excellency Costaki Pasha sent for Mr. Vice-Consul Moazzo at 7 o'clock this morning, and told him confidentially that the Mussulmans of Rethymo had armed themselves and gone out to the surrounding country, and were pillaging the villages where the Christians dwelt. He confessed that he had no power to put a stop to their proceedings, as the zaptiehs were disaffected, the troops insufficient, and the authority of the Government fallen into abeyance. His Excellency added that he had telegraphed to the Porte, stating that, without money, and in the absence of a General possessed of full authority over the troops, he could not be responsible for the safety of life and property. He begged Mr. Moazzo to communicate the above to me in confidence. As the post is on the point of leaving, his Excellency is too busy to see me now.

A gentleman who has just come from Rethymo by the steamer fully confirms Costaki Pasha's report. He says that the Moslems are robbing even the women of the clothes on their backs, and that a band of Christians from Apokorona are on their way to protect their brethren. At Rethymo order is still preserved.

In consequence of this intelligence, I am just dispatching a telegram to his Excellency Mr. Layard in these words:—"The presence of a man-of-war would be advisable here."

T. B. S.

No. 817.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 173.)
Paris, February 18, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH my despatch No. 168 of the day before yesterday, I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter which I had sent to M. Waddington on that evening, on receiving your Lordship's instruction respecting the necessity of an immediate convocation of the Conference.

M. Waddington told me this morning that on the receipt of my letter he had forthwith dispatched to General Leflo, the French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, a telegram instructing him to press upon the Russian Government the importance of assembling the Conference at once.

M. Waddington went on to say that he had also thought it right to send a similar instruction to the French Ambassador at Vienna.

M. Waddington proceeded to observe that as the invitation to the Powers to take part in a Conference had come from Austria, it belonged to the Austrian Government to push on the arrangements for opening it.

M. Waddington added, that in his opinion no real progress could be made until an understanding had been come to on the programme of the Conference, and that, as a first step to such an understanding, it was incumbent upon the Austrian Government to ascertain the views of Russia upon that subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 818.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 174. Confidential.)
Paris, February 18, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON told me this morning that he had just received by telegraph from General Lollô, the French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, a report on the language held to him there respecting the passage of the Dardanelles by the English fleet, and the intentions of the Russian Government with regard to the occupation of Constantinople.

The impression General Lollô's telegram had made upon him was, M. Waddington said, partly good and partly bad.

It was good, inasmuch as the General reported his own opinion to be that, notwithstanding the excitement of the public in Russia and the violence of the press, the Russian Government itself was very anxious to preserve peace with England.

It was also good because the Emperor of Russia appeared to have abandoned, for the present at all events, the intention of occupying Gallipoli; and this M. Waddington

conceived to be the critical question on which peace or war between Russia and England immediately depended.

On the other hand, M. Waddington must confess that the language held to General Leflô respecting the occupation of Constantinople was, if it was to be understood literally, much less reassuring.

The substance of that language was, M. Waddington told me, as follows:—

"The occupation of Constantinople is maintained in principle; but in consequence of the English fleet having retired to Mondania, it has not yet actually taken place. It has also been delayed to give time for an answer to be received to an appeal to withdraw Her Majesty's fleet from the Sea of Marmora, which has been addressed to the Queen of England by the Sultan. But the Russian troops are held in readiness to march, and they will advance to Constantinople at once if the answer of Her Britannic Majesty shall be in the negative."

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 819.

M. Jon Ghica to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

Londres, le 17 *Février*, 1878.

My Lord,

LES quelques moments d'entretien que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'accorder m'ont suggéré l'idée de mettre sur papier la notice ci-jointe concernant spécialement la situation actuelle de la Roumanie. Je serai heureux si votre Seigneurie voulait y donner quelque attention et en tenir compte dans le courant des graves décisions que l'Europe est appelé à prendre.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) JON GHICA.

Inclosure in No. 819.

Memorandum respecting Roumania.

LA Roumanie soustraite au protectorat et à l'influence Russe par le Traité de Paris a pu prendre un développement rapide dans toutes les branches de la vie sociale et politique. En moins de vingt ans, elle a su se donner une administration régulière à l'instar de celles généralement adoptées dans l'Europe occidentale; elle s'est donné des lois qui garantissent la personne, la famille et la propriété, elle a donné une solution juste et équitable à la question rurale qui était un véritable danger social pour elle. Actuellement elle a des routes bien chaussées dans presque toutes les directions; elle a construit près de 2,000 miles de chemins de fer; elle possède des écoles de tous les degrés d'enseignement et des universités comprenant toutes les facultés scientifiques et littéraires; l'industrie et le commerce ont pris un développement très important. Elle possède actuellement une force armée capable de maintenir l'ordre et la tranquillité à l'intérieur et au besoin de présenter une résistence à une invasion du dehors, en tant, bien entendu, qu'elle pourrait compter sur l'appui des Puissances qui s'intéressent à son existence.

La Roumanie a prouvé à l'Europe qu'elle veut et qu'elle peut marcher dans la voie du progrès et de la civilisation occidentale et qu'elle saurait devenir un élément d'ordre et de sécurité dans le monde Oriental. Les Principautés de Moldavie et de Valachie sont devenu aujourd'hui la Roumanie, un Etat tout petit, il est vrai, mais qui a la conscience de son existence et comprend le rôle qu'il est appelé à jouer en Orient.

Les Roumains sont de race Latine, par leur nationalité et par la position géographique qu'ils occupent, ils font partie de cette zone qui sépare, du nord au midi, les deux grands groupes Slavs. Par la ténacité et la vigueur avec laquelle ils ont su défendre leur nationalité pendant dix-huit siècles contre les invasions des barbares et les tentatives de leurs puissants voisins ils ont prouvé qu'ils peuvent devenir un élément utile et même nécessaire pour l'Europe en Orient.

Le Traité de Paris a fait pour la Roumanie plus que de lui ouvrir la voie dans la vie politique et de la mettre en position de se donner une Constitution et des institutions libérales; il lui a rendu une partie du territoire compris entre le Dniester, le Pruth, et le Danube, dont elle avait été dépouillée par le Traité de Bucarest en 1812; il lui a rendu une petite partie de cette Bessarabie, une lisière, en quelque sorte, sur le Pruth et le Danube, afin d'éloigner la Russie de quelques miles des bords du Danube et de son embouchure, dans le but certainement d'assurer dans l'avenir la libre navigation de ce grand fleuve et d'éviter les empêchements qu'on élevait à l'embouchure au profit du commerce exclusif d'Odessa.

Je dois observer ici que malgré le texte précis du Traité de Paris, qui rend à la Moldavie toute la partie de la Bessarabie qui lui appartenait sur le Danube avant 1812, néanmoins la Conférence dans laquelle on a fixé les limites de la Moldavie du côté de la Turquie s'est arrêté au talweg du Canal de Kilia jusqu'à Ibriam et à Bolgorod, lui enlevant tout le Delta du Danube qui avait fait partie de la Bessarabie.

Les Roumains ont reçu cette petite portion de terre, non seulement comme une partie de ce qui leur appartenait *ab antiquo*, mais aussi comme un dépôt que l'Europe confiait à leur garde.

La situation de la Roumanie était des plus prospères lorsque les armées Russes s'approchèrent de la frontière prêtes à la franchir au premier signal. Le Grand Duc Nicholas se présentait comme chargé d'exécuter les volontés de l'Europe. Le moment était, il faut le reconnaître, difficile et délicat pour le Gouvernement Roumain; la résistance n'était ni possible ni conseillée; d'ailleurs, comment abandonner le pays sans condition à la merci et à la discrétion des chefs militaires, c'eût été le vouer à la ruine; les guerres Russo-Turques ont été de tout temps désastreuses pour la Roumanie. Cette fois le Gouvernement a cru pouvoir épargner au pays les mauvaises conséquences de la guerre, et en même temps le soustraire à l'éventualité d'une perte de territoire dont les agents Russes avaient souvent parlé, quoique d'une manière subjective. C'est surtout cette dernière considération, qui a dicté au Gouvernement Roumain la Convention du 17 Avril, 1877, signée cinq jours après l'entrée des troupes Russes en Roumanie, Convention par laquelle l'Empereur Alexandre garantit l'intégrité du territoire Roumain de la manière la plus péremptoire. Voici la teneur de l'Article II de cette Convention:—

"Afin qu'il ne résulte aucun inconvénient et aucun danger pour la Roumanie du fait du passage des troupes Russes sur son territoire, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies s'oblige à maintenir, et à faire respecter, les droits politiques de l'Etat Roumain, tels qu'ils résultent des lois intérieures et des Traités existants, ainsi qu'à maintenir et à défendre l'intégrité actuelle de la Roumanie."

On était par là en droit de penser que la Russie, moins que toute autre Puissance, viendrait, neuf mois après, vouloir arracher une partie de ce qu'elle avait garantie d'une manière aussi solennelle, et cela après des services signalés que la Roumanie lui a rendu dans des moments très critiques.

Le sacrifice que la Roumanie a fait en mettant hommes et choses au service des besoins de l'armée Russe, elle l'a fait dans l'espoir de pouvoir conserver cette petite lisière de terre, cette petite partie de la Bessarabie, qui est pour elle non-seulement une question de territoire, mais aussi une question d'eau, le Danube étant la seule voie par laquelle elle peut écouler les produits de son sol. Car on se demande que deviendra sa navigation du Danube du jour où la Russie entrera en possession du littoral de ce fleuve depuis l'embouchure du Pruth à Reni jusqu'à la Mer Noire, possédant le cours en amont de la séparation des bras navigables? ne serait-ce recommencer le renouvellement des obstacles que les beaux et bienfaisants travaux de la Commission Européenne ont fait disparaître à grande peine, et qui déjà ont été fortement compromis depuis la guerre; quelques navires ensemblés en amont de Toultcha, et tous les bras du Danube, sont formés comme ils l'étaient avant 1856.

Aucune des dispositions du Traité de Paris n'a été aussi populaire en Roumanie comme l'a été la retrocession de cette partie de la Bessarabie, car elle lui assurait la liberté de son commerce, et lui donnait la vie économique. La libre navigation du Danube est la vraie source de la richesse de ce pays.

En signant la Convention du 17 Avril, et en se mettant à la disposition de l'Empereur Alexandre jusqu'à porter nos troupes au delà du Danube, le Gouvernement Roumain avait été en droit d'espérer que la Russie tiendrait compte au pays des sacrifices qu'il s'est imposé, et qu'elle respecterait l'intégrité de son territoire. Si la Russie demande cette partie de la Bessarabie ce n'est point pour les quelques acres de terrain qu'elle contient, c'est la clef des portes du Danube qu'elle veut avoir.

La réalisation d'un pareil projet serait d'un triste présage pour le sort avenir de la Roumanie, et aucune compensation ne saurait lui convenir ni l'en consoler. Il ne se trouvera pas un seul Ministre en Roumanie, pas un membre dans les Chambres, qui puisse souscrire une semblable mutilation.

Jusqu'à présent l'Angleterre ne s'est intéressé à la Roumanie que sous le point de vue de partie intégrante de l'Empire Ottoman, et non pas comme d'un Etat Roumain, tandis que la France a toujours soutenu les Roumains comme une nation dans laquelle elle avait reconnu une véritable attraction, et des dispositions pour les idées et les institutions Occidentales, elle les a aidé dans leurs efforts pour le développement des institutions constitutionnelles, et pour leur développement politique, par là elle a gagné la reconnaissance et l'attachement de tous les Roumains. C'est aujourd'hui à l'Angleterre de les soutenir, de les aider, et de ne pas laisser compromettre le travail et les sacrifices de deux générations, de ne pas permettre qu'une nation soit arrêtée dans son développement et dans sa marche dans la voie de la civilisation.

(Signé) JON GHICA.

Londres, le 17 Février, 1878.

(Translation.)

ROUMANIA, withdrawn by the Treaty of Paris from the guardianship and the influence of Russia, has been enabled to develope with marvellous rapidity in every branch of social and political life. In less than twenty years she has adopted a regular Administration similar to those generally prevailing in Western Europe. She has instituted laws which guarantee the safety of person, family, and property. She has solved in a just and rational manner the agrarian question, which was a real social danger. She has well-paved roads in every direction, nearly 2,000 miles of railway, schools for every class of learning, and universities for all degrees, both scientific and literary. Industry and commerce have received a very important impetus, and she possesses an armed force capable of maintaining order and tranquility at home and even, if need be, of resisting a foreign invasion, in so far as she might depend upon the support of the Powers interested in her existence.

Roumania has proved to Europe that she can and will march in the way of progress and Western civilization. And she cannot fail to become an element of order and security in the Eastern world.

The Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia have become to-day Roumania, a State small in itself, it is true, but which has the consciousness of its existence and well understands the part which she is destined to play in the East.

The Roumanians belong to the Latin race, and by their geographical position form part of that zone which separates from north to south the two great Slavonic groups. And they have proved that they are a useful and even necessary element in Eastern Europe by the tenacity with which they have defended their nationality against the invasions of barbarism and the hostile attempts of powerful neighbours during eighteen centuries.

The Treaty of Paris not only opened to Roumania the road to political life and put her in a position to endow herself with a liberal government and free institutions, but it also restored to her a part of the territory of which she had been despoiled by the Treaty of Bucharest in 1812—a small strip of Bessarabia comprised between the Dniester, the Pruth, and the Danube, a sort of border-land by which Russia was pushed back some miles from the shores of the Danube and shut out from its mouths, thus ensuring for the future the free navigation of that great river, and preventing the reimposition of the many obstacles which had been previously created for the sole benefit of the trade of Odessa. It must be observed that notwithstanding the precise wording of the Treaty of Paris, which restored this portion of Bessarabia to Moldavia, which had belonged to her prior to 1812, yet the Conference which defined the limits fixed the frontier at the "thalweg" of the channel between Kilia to Idimo and Dolgorod, thus on the Turkish side taking from Moldavia the delta of the Danube, which till then had always formed part of Bessarabia.

The Roumanians received this small slice of territory not only as a restitution of what had formerly been their own, but also as a sacred deposit confided to their care by the whole of Europe.

Roumania was in a state of unexampled prosperity when the Russian armies approached her frontiers, ready to cross at the first signal. The Grand Duke Nicholas presented himself as commissioned to execute the will of Europe. The moment, it must be admitted, was a difficult and a delicate one for the Roumanian Government. Resistance was neither practicable nor advisable, nor was it possible to abandon the country unconditionally to the mercy and discretion of military chiefs. To have done so would have been inevitable ruin. The Russo-Turkish conflicts had always been disastrous to Roumania. This time the Government believed it possible to avert from the country the evil consequences of war, and at the same time to save it from any

loss of territory, of which the Russian agents had often spoken, although only as a remote and improbable contingency. It was, above all, this last consideration which induced the Roumanian Government to accept the Convention of the 17th April last, signed five days after the entrance of the Russian troops into Roumania, and by which the Emperor Alexander guaranteed the integrity of the Roumanian territory in the most peremptory manner. Here is the text of the IInd Article of this Convention:—

"In order that no inconvenience and no danger should result to Roumania from the passage of the Russian forces through her territory, the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias pledges itself to maintain and cause to be respected the political rights of the State of Roumania, such as they result from previous laws and existing treaties, as well as to uphold and defend the present integrity of Roumania."

These words certainly entitled one to believe that, least of all Powers, Russia would, only nine months later, endeavour to wrench away a portion of what she had guaranteed in so solemn a manner, especially after the valuable service which Roumania rendered her at the most critical moment.

The sacrifices made by Roumania in placing men and materials at the disposal of Russia in the hour of her need, were dictated by the hope of being able thereby to preserve that little strip of country which is to her not only a question of territory, but also of waterway; the Danube being the sole outlet by which she can dispose of the produce of her soil. For we are forced to ask ourselves, what will the navigation of the Danube become from the day that Russia takes possession of that river from the mouth of the Pruth to the sea? thus controlling its course above the separation of the three navigable branches. Would it not be to commence anew the difficulties and obstacles which the valuable labours of the European Commission have overcome with so much trouble, and which have already been seriously compromised since the outbreak of the war? A few vessels above Toultcha, and all the branches of the Danube are thereby closed, as they were before 1856.

None of the provisions of the Treaty of Paris were as acceptable to Roumania as the retrocession of Bessarabia, which assured her liberty of commerce and economical development. The free navigation of the Danube is the well-spring of the riches of the country.

In signing the Convention of the 17th April, and placing her resources at the service of the Emperor Alexander, even to the extent of sending her troops across the Danube, Roumania has certainly a right to expect that Russia would compensate her for the many and heavy sacrifices, and at least respect her integrity. If, however, Russia demands this small strip of land, it is not for the few square miles of ground it contains. It is the gates of the Danube which she covets.

The realization of such a project would be a sorry presage for the future of Roumania, and no compensation of any kind whatever would satisfy or console her for it. Nor could there be found a Minister or a single member in either Chamber who would subscribe to such a mutilation.

Up to this time England has only occupied herself with Roumania as an integral part of the Ottoman Empire, and not as a State, while France has always upheld Roumania as a nation which has her real sympathies, and in which she recognizes aptitudes for Western ideas and institutions. She has aided the Roumanians in their efforts to develop constitutional government, and by thus fostering their political growth, she has won the love and gratitude of the entire nation. It is now the turn of England to support them, and not to allow the toil of two generations to be endangered, and not to permit a nation of Europeans to be stopped in their progress and their aspirations to civilization.

(Signed) JON GHICA.

London, February 17, 1878.

No. 820.

Memorandum communicated by Count Beust, February 20, 1878.

D'APRES des informations confidentielles les conditions imposées à la Porte par Ignatiew sont infiniment plus dures que les bases générales. On en a demandé le secret et la signature avant le 2 Mars, jour de fête de Sa Majesté l'Empereur Alexandre. La Bulgarie comprendrait la plus grande partie de la Roumélie, le Monténégro aurait un

surcroit de territoire considérable et deux ports de mer, la Servie doit être agrandie de toute une Province; l'Article concernant l'indemnité de guerre est plutôt modéré.

Les déclarations du Gouvernement dans les Chambres de Vienne et de Pesth expriment assez nettement quelle serait la position de l'Autriche-Hongrie.

La proposition de réunir la Conférence à Bade entre le 6 et le 10 Mars est acceptée à Berlin, et recommandé par le Gouvernement Allemand à St. Pétersbourg. Le Cabinet Russe n'a point encore répondu.

No. 821.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 243. Most Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 19, 1878.

I HAVE been informed, most confidentially, that the following are among the terms of peace proposed by General Ignatiew. I cannot answer for the complete accuracy of my information; but I believe it on the whole correct. I am promised a copy of the communication from the Turkish Plenipotentiaries on the subject.

It is very important that it should not be known that you have obtained this information from me.

Frontier of Bulgaria to the east will pass through Tchorlu and Zule Burgas to Media on the Black Sea; but General Ignatiew says that Adrianople might be left to the Sultan.

Russia to retain 50,000 men in Bulgaria for one or two years at the expense of the Government of the country.

All Mussulmans to leave the Principality, and to dispose of land and other property within one year. All Vacouf and State property to be confiscated.

Administrative regulations to be arranged by Russian and Austrian officials.

The Prince to be a native of Bulgaria.

New arrangement for Crete carrying out wishes of people.

Rectification of Greek frontiers.

New arrangement for Armenia in direction of autonomy.

Servia and Montenegro to be extended so as to cut off Bosnia. Austria to be consulted as to arrangements for these States.

Indemnity to Bosnian and Herzegovinian refugees.

A very heavy indemnity, including all war expenses, commercial losses, &c.

General Ignatiew said that the equivalent would be part of Armenian territory, including Kars, and hinted that fleet might be demanded.

No ship of war to be allowed on Danube, and the fortresses to be razed.

Peace to be signed before February 19 (o.s.); if not, harder conditions to be required.

General Ignatiew said that Emperor was pressed to demand St. Sophia and other Greek churches converted into mosques, but in his repugnance had hitherto refused.

General Ignatiew warned Plenipotentiaries that these conditions were not to be communicated to any one.

Namyk Pasha, instead of Sadyk, goes at once to Emperor to endeavour to obtain modification of terms.

No. 822.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 244. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 19, 1878.

FOLLOWING is substance of letter just communicated to me confidentially by the Porte from Safvet Pasha to Prime Minister. States that notwithstanding Russia's determination to occupy Constantinople after the entry of the British fleet into the Dardanelles, the Emperor, taking into consideration the crowded condition of the capital, has directed Grand Duke to transfer his head-quarters to San Stephano, a village four miles from Constantinople, accompanied by one division only, leaving the bulk of his forces between Chataldja and Kutchuk Chekmedjé, but with orders to occupy capital with them, should the British ships re-enter Bosphorus.

His Highness is further directed to negotiate preliminaries of peace at San Stephano.

No. 823.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 245.) *Pera, February* 19, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

PRIME MINISTER informs me that the Sultan answers that Bulair lines cannot be defended unless we act with him by sea. Should the Russians force them the breeches of the guns on the European side will be removed, and the ammunition taken to the opposite side. His Majesty would be then disposed to place the forts on the Asiatic side in the hands of Her Majesty's Government, provided England no longer maintained her position of neutrality.

No. 824.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 246. Secret.) *Pera, February* 19, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

I AM assured that Salonica is included in the Bulgarian Principality, and that the indemnity demanded is three milliards of francs. If the peace is not signed by the day mentioned in my previous telegram, military operations are to recommence at once. Sultan thinks that as the terms virtually put an end to his Empire in Europe he ought to resist to the last, and I understand that military preparations have been ordered.

No. 825.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 247.) *Pera, February* 19, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Porte has given instructions to Musurus Pasha to sell frigate to Her Majesty's Government on the terms mentioned by you. But the Prime Minister earnestly begs Her Majesty's Government to take measures to prevent money being stopped in England, and to have it remitted here at once, as there is the most urgent need of it. Treasury is perfectly empty, and a vast number of fugitives to feed besides the usual requirements.

No. 826.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 248.) *Constantinople, February* 19, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

SAFVET PASHA has been appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 827.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 249.) *Constantinople, February* 19, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

SAFVET Pasha has sent to-day telegram to the Prime Minister to the following effect:—

"Russian Plenipotentiaries having put forward new pretensions to which it is impossible to accede, I propose to your Highness to telegraph to the Emperor to beg him to modify these demands, which, if conceded, would deprive Turkey of all means of government and would humiliate nation; and further to request His Majesty to abandon possession of a part of the fleet, and to be satisfied with part of Dobrudscha.

"I have reason to believe that these demands have been put forward by the Russian Plenipotentiaries with a view to obtaining more than Emperor himself had asked."

No. 828.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 42. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 19, 1878.*

THERE is evidently (something ?) going on as regards navigation questions relative to Black Sea. Admiral Tchickackow has been summoned by telegraph from Odessa.

From language repeated to me confidentially, Russian idea is apparently excluding foreign, and especially English, ships of war from Black Sea, whilst yielding on question of occupation of Constantinople, and for that purpose to obtain, by a secret arrangement with Turkey, footing with the eventual intention of a permanent position on the Bosphorus.

I think it right to warn Her Majesty's Government on this question, evident object of Russia being to prevent any effective naval aid of England to Austria in case of pressure on that Power by Russia.

No. 829.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 19, 1878.*
(Secret.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, transmitting one from Lord Odo Russell, I have to state that in course of a long conversation with Count Andrassy, I remarked an increased sense of risk to which Austria would be exposed by a war with Russia. He alluded to the great extent of frontier to be defended, and to the excitement that would be produced among the Emperor's Slav subjects, the evil results of which would be long felt.

He repeated the conviction formerly expressed that the geographical position of Austria enables her to threaten the Russian army in Turkey with a complete disaster, but this was said with less confidence than formerly.

An apprehension was, I thought, apparent in him that Russia might take any beginning of mobilization as an act of hostility, and might strike a blow at this country before its preparations were complete.

Count Andrassy continues to put perfect trust in the neutrality of Germany, and is not apprehensive of Italy; but the general tone of his language, which I propose to report fully to your Lordship by next messenger, induces me to telegraph my belief that he will not take any steps towards mobilization until after it has been seen whether an arrangement may not be come to through the Conference.

No. 830.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 19, 1878.*

IN answer to an interpellation addressed to him in the House of Representatives, the Austrian Prime Minister, Prince Auersperg, to-day declared that the Imperial Government cannot but consider that certain of the stipulations contained in the Preliminaries of Peace are at variance with the interests of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy. The reserves made by the Government have, however, no reference to those points which concern the amelioration of the condition of the Christians in the East, but to those stipulations which may bring about a displacement of the existing distribution of power to the prejudice of the Monarchy.

The Government has the confident hope that the councils of Europe will succeed in bringing about an understanding, as all the Powers concerned must wish that this crisis may terminate in a peace not ephemeral but lasting. The Government hopes that the Powers will agree upon a satisfactory solution of the Eastern question, which shall not be one-sided, but generally equitable. In any case the Government of His Majesty, in the face of such serious circumstances, recognize it as their duty and task to maintain the material and political interests, as well as the reputation, of the Monarchy.

No. 831.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February 19, 1878.*

THE Austro-Hungarian Ambassador yesterday proposed to the Italian Governmen that Congress should be held at Baden-Baden early in March, which M. Depretis accepted. His Excellency is very desirous of learning views of Her Majesty's Government respecting policy to be followed there, and again mentioned Straits, and that none of the Great Powers should make territorial acquisitions, as the points on which he is most anxious.

(Most Confidential.)

I presented my letters to-day to the King. His Majesty spoke in a very anti-Russian sense, and said that every one had been tricked by her. He fears Prince Bismarck's policy will paralyze the other Powers, who will have to accept conditions which he may agree upon with Russia.

No. 832.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 20, 1878.*

MR. LAYARD, by his telegram of the 18th, reports the Turkish Prime Minister to have said that, by the arrangements proposed by Russia, Bosnia will be entirely cut off from all communication with the rest of the Empire, and must be regarded as lost to it.

If the frontiers of Servia and of Montenegro are so far advanced as to isolate Bosnia, the annexation of that province by Austria appears to me a certainty and, perhaps, a necessity.

I am satisfied that Count Andrassy does not wish for this, but he would, in my opinion, consider it necessary to take effective measures to prevent the absorption of Bosnia into Servia, which must be the inevitable ultimate result of such an arrangement.

No. 833.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 20, 1878, 4 P.M.*

AS directed by your Lordship, I have asked Count Andrassy what he thought of the demand of Russia for the expulsion of Mahommedan population from Bulgaria. I found his Excellency boiling over with indignation at proposal, for which it would be necessary to go back to the time of the barbarians to find a parallel. When Europe had called upon Turkey for toleration, it was monstrous to see such a proposal brought forward.

No. 835.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 250. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 20, 1878, 9·15 A.M.*

WITH reference to secret telegram, I have no doubt that Server Pasha is the traitor. I will take steps to ascertain. Russia has agents on every side, and, as I have frequently stated, finds a most powerful assistance in the German Ambassador. This state of things is most dangerous to us and to our interests.

No. 836.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 251.) *Constantinople, February 20, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)
EMPEROR of Russia has refused to receive an Envoy from the Sultan. Namyk Pasha will, therefore, not be sent.

No. 837.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 252.) *Constantinople, February 20, 1878, 1·20 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)
PRIME MINISTER informs me that the Russians have demanded immediate surrender of the whole Turkish fleet, and threaten that, unless it is given up at once, they will enter Constantinople by force. I have entreated Prime Minister to delay signature as long as possible. The Russians also now demand that 30,000 men shall occupy Constantinople, and M. Onou has been sent here to make arrangements for it. Prime Minister expresses conviction that, once in the city, Russians will cause bloodshed for the purpose of bringing about a general massacre of the Mussulmans. Russian officers with Skobeleff informed an English gentleman that, before entering Constantinople by force, Pera would be sacked—meaning, it is conjectured, the British Embassy. The state of affairs is so grave that it may be desirable for Her Majesty's Government to consider whether the archives and property of the Embassy should not be moved to one of Her Majesty's ships, or what precautions should be taken.

No. 838.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, February 20, 1878.*
(Confidential.)
PRINCE GORTCHAKOW has telegraphed to Prince Bismarck that he does not think it will be possible for him to (attend ?) Conference as early in March as has been proposed, and he begs that some later date may be adopted.

No. 839.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

Berlin, February 20, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)
PRINCE BISMARCK'S speech has already been telegraphed *in extenso* to the London papers. It has produced an excellent impression in Berlin, and the morning papers agree with the Chancellor that the policy of Germany should be to adhere to the old alliance with Russia, to protect the interests of Austria, to support Count Andrassy, and to hold fast to the historical connection with England.

No. 840.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, February 20, 1878.*
(Secret.)
IN reply to your Lordship's Secret telegram of the 18th instant, I beg to say that I shall endeavour to elicit a further statement from Prince Bismarck as soon as possible.
It is believed here by the best informed persons that Germany would desert Austria if the alliance of the three Emperors should ever break up.
In which case it is also believed here that the King of Italy would be more likely to join Germany and Russia in preference to Austria.

The Emperor's private correspondence is a standing grievance of Prince Bismarck, but in the present case he probably pleads ignorance for purposes of his own.

No. 841.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 20, 1878, 4·15 P.M.*
WHAT are the documents referred to in Prince Bismarck's speech as having been only that morning received?
Do they contain any conditions of peace other than those published in the "St. Petersburgh Gazette," of which a copy was published in "Turkey No. 12," page 1, sent to you on the 12th instant?

No. 842.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 20, 1878, 5·15 P.M.*
PRINCE AUERSPERG is reported to have said in his speech that the Government knew the Peace Preliminaries, which were in the main those published by the Russian papers.
Do the Preliminaries known to the Austrian Government contain any conditions of peace other than those published in the "St. Petersburgh Gazette," of which a copy was published in "Turkey No. 12," page 1, sent to you on the 12th instant?

No. 843.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 20, 1878.*
COUNT BEUST [illegible] that he learn confidentially that Ignatieff's conditions are infinitely harder than the general bases. He has insisted on secrecy respecting them, and signature before March 2.
Bulgaria is to comprise greater part of Roumelia. Montenegro is to have considerable increase of territory and two ports. Servia is to be increased by an entire province. The Article respecting indemnity is somewhat reduced.
Beust says that proposal for meeting of Conference at Baden between 6th and 10th is accepted at Berlin, and has been recommended by German Government to Russian Government, who have not yet replied.

No. 844.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 155.) *Foreign Office, February 20, 1878.*
My Lord,
HER Majesty's Government approve of the note addressed by you to Prince Gortchakow, copy of which is inclosed in your despatch No. 105 of the 8th instant, relative to the reported advance of the Russian armies towards Constantinople.
I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 845.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 160.) *Foreign Office, February 20, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 196 of the 14th instant, and to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the note addressed by your Excellency to Prince Gortchakow on the 9th instant, informing his Highness that Her Majesty's Government have judged it necessary to order a detachment of the British fleet to proceed to Constantinople for the protection of British life and property.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 846.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 161.) *Foreign Office, February 20, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 178 of the 9th instant, I transmit to you herewith copies of a despatch and of its inclosures from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* relative to the ill-treatment to which three English doctors sent out from England to attend the sick and wounded have been subjected by the Russians; and I have to instruct your Excellency, in drawing the attention of the Russian Government to the facts thus disclosed, to point out that the complaints as to their ill-treatment, which you were instructed by my telegram of the 15th instant to bring to the notice of the Russian Government, are now shown to have been only too well founded.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 847.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 165.) *Foreign Office, February 20, 1878.*

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,† inclosing an extract from a letter and a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Varna, giving an account of the proceedings of Cossacks and Bulgarians towards two English subjects and other persons in the neighbourhood of Varna; and I have to instruct your Excellency to call the attention of the Russian Government to the matter, and to communicate to them copies of Mr. Layard's despatch and its inclosures.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 848.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 260.) *Foreign Office, February 20, 1878.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 171 of the 4th instant, forwarding a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert, reporting his proceedings on the investment of Philippopolis by the Russian troops; and I have to request your Excellency to convey to Mr. Calvert my entire approval of his conduct as reported in his despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

---

* No. 631.

† No. 635.

No. 849.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 140.) *Foreign Office, February 20, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 168 of the 17th instant, and I approve of the note which you have addressed to M. Waddington, expressing the views of Her Majesty's Government as to a united representation to Russia by the neutral Powers with the object of urging the immediate assembling of the Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 850.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 100.) *Foreign Office, February 20, 1878.*

My Lord,

ACCORDING to the reports which have been published in this country of the speech made yesterday in the German Parliament by Prince Bismarck, his Highness observes that he could not speak with any certainty as to the exact position which Germany would assume at the Conference, as certain documents to which he had referred in his speech had only on that day come into his hands.

I have requested your Lordship by telegraph to inform me if you can ascertain whether the papers to which his Highness alluded contain any Conditions of Peace other than those which were published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of the 26th ultimo, an extract of which was published on the first page of Part XII of the "Correspondence on the Affairs of Turkey," which was sent to you on the 12th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 851.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 141.) *Foreign Office, February 20, 1878.*

Sir,

IN the reports of Prince Auersperg's speech of yesterday in the "Reichstag" he is stated to have said that the Austro-Hungarian Government know the Peace Preliminaries, and that they were in the main the same as those which have been published in the Russian newspapers.

I have requested your Excellency to day by telegraph to inform me whether the preliminaries to which Prince Auersperg referred contained any Conditions of Peace other than those which were published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of the 26th ultimo, of which an extract was printed on the first page of Part XII of the "Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey," sent to you on the 12th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 852.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 3. Political.) *Foreign Office, February 20, 1878.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 16, Political, of the 4th instant, reporting the present state of affairs in Mirdidia, and the efforts which you had made to obtain a pacification through the influence of your Austrian colleague; and I have to express to you my approval of your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 853.

The Earl of Derby to M. Gennadius.

Foreign Office, February 20, 1878.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

I COMMUNICATED by telegraph to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the substance of the telegram from your Government which you placed in my hands on the 18th instant, to the effect that, according to reports received from the Commander of the returned Greek troops, bands of Ghegos sent to Thessaly by the Ottoman Government were committing atrocities on the Christian populations, and representing the difficulties thereby caused to the Greek Government.

I have now the honour to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Ambassador has reported by telegraph that he has brought these reports to the notice of the Porte, and that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs declares most positively that they are unfounded; but has promised to give orders at once by telegraph to the authorities to remove the irregulars and to protect the Christians.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 854.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 18. Political.)
My Lord,

Scutari, February 10, 1878.

HAVING learnt that the Mohammedan inhabitants of Podgoritza, owing to the supposed advance of the Montenegrins into the Christian Slav villages in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, had been parading the streets armed and threatening to massacre their Christian fellow-townsmen, I immediately sent and saw Lieutenant-General Hussein Husni Pasha, and pointed out to his Excellency the responsibility he would personally incur should any untoward event happen at Podgoritza.

The Pasha told me that the matter had already come under his notice, and that he had consequently made up his mind to go to Podgoritza to-morrow and himself settle the Mussulmans understand that he will tolerate no insubordination.

I think it right, however, to report here that Hussein Pasha may himself be in a way the cause of the effervescence among the co-religionists of Podgoritza, as, whilst he was only second in command in North Albania, he interfered with the action of Ali with Pasha by stirring up the feelings and local interests of the Podgoritzians against the Montchir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 855.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 19. Political.)
My Lord,

Scutari, February 11, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Turkish military authorities here have been considerably perplexed, since they received the notification of the existence of an armistice, by the conduct of the Montenegrins.

Posts in the neighbourhood of Podgoritza and on the banks of the River Boyana the Montenegrins have advanced their outposts to places which were not in their possession on the 31st, the date of the signature of the armistice at the Russian head-quarters, and not even on the 7th, when hostilities ceased in North Albania.

On the morning of the 5th instant the Turks were surprised to notice the Montenegrin flag flying over the villages of Mamitchiki, Ljeskopolje, and Lucovats Ponari, all within a very short distance of Podgoritza. The inhabitants of these villages, who are Christian Slavs, had at once fraternized with the Montenegrins.

Representations made by the Turkish Commandant at Podgoritza only elicited the reply that if he was dissatisfied it was open to him to use force. A similar answer was

returned to him when he pointed out that Dinoshi had been occupied on the 2nd instant, two days after the 31st.

Hussein Pasha, on his side, when he had an interview, on the 8th, with the Montenegrin Commanders near Gorica, was not more successful in his remonstrances than his subordinate at Podgoritza, and he was distinctly informed that not even a canoe would be allowed to pass up the River Boyana, as the Montenegrins commanded its waters from its mouth to the village of San Giorgio.

M. Blajo Petrovich, the Prince of Montenegro's Aide-de-camp, having been unable to furnish satisfactory explanations concerning the alleged encroachments, has this day returned to Cettigné with a letter from General Hussein Husni Pasha, protesting, by order of the Seraskier, against the continued possession by the Montenegrins of all the points occupied by them since the 31st ultimo.

M. Blajo Petrovich informed me that he had heard a Russian officer from the head-quarters at Adrianople and a Turkish Commissioner are on their way to this for the purpose of fixing the positions of the respective forces around Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 856.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 20. Political.)
My Lord,

Scutari, February 11, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday M. Blajo Petrovich, one of the Aides-de-camp of the Prince of Montenegro, and a near relative to His Highness, who had arrived in Scutari the day before in order to afford the Turkish General explanations regarding certain positions occupied by the Montenegrins after the 31st ultimo, the date of the signature of the armistice at the Russian head-quarters, called upon me and delivered the letter of which the inclosed are a copy and a translation.

I at once saw Lieutenant-General Hussein Husni Pasha on the subject of the grain which is still due to the Montenegrins, and after pointing out to his Excellency how the Turkish authorities were in honour bound to complete an engagement by which they had obtained the free passage of a convoy of provisions to Nioslic, he consented to endeavour to close satisfactorily the transaction.

Hussein Pasha, however, explained to me that the Indian corn is at the port of San Giovanni di Medua, and that, owing to the opposition made by the Montenegrins who occupy the north bank of the River Boyana from Ivanmudic as far as the village of San Giorgio, it is impossible for any vessels to reach Obodi, and that not only the Montenegrin corn, but also the flour and rice for the use of the Turkish troops, are thus blocked out of Scutari.

On my acquainting M. Blajo Petrovich with the Pasha's explanation, he expressed the conviction that the Montenegrin Government would immediately give directions for the free passage up the Boyana both of its grain and of the provisions for the Turkish troops.

I have the honour to furnish herewith a copy of my reply to the communication of Prince Nicholas' Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 856.

M. Dedo to Consul Kirby Green.

Cettinje, le [illegible], 1878.

M. le Consul,

SON Altesse le Prince, ayant pour adhésus à Scutari son Aide-de-camp et parent, M. Blajo Petrovich, me recommande spécialement de vous prier à cette occasion de vous assurer de son bon souvenir et du regret qu'il a eu de ne pouvoir vous inviter à son camp lors de son arrivée près d'Antivari, alors que vous avez proposé de le visiter.

Ses mouvements alors étaient si incertaines, ses occupations si multiples, et l'installation de son quartier-général si incommode, qu'il s'est fait un scrupule de vous

envoyer à accomplir votre projet, ayant si peu de chance de pouvoir vous recevoir comme il tient à le faire.

Il espère bien que vous n'avez pas douté du plaisir qu'il aurait eu à vous revoir et, maintenant que les circonstances sont changées, il sera heureux, si vos devoirs vous le permettent, de renouveller avec vous la connaissance si agréablement commencée.

Si vous vous en souvenez, l'extension prise par les opérations militaires a empêché l'exécution des bonnes intentions de son Excellence le Commandant-en-chef à Scutari, qui se proposait l'automne dernier de nous faire passer le solde des grains restant à Scutari en la quantité que les autorités Turques s'étaient engagées, sous la garantie de M. le Consul-Général d'Angleterre, à nous livrer à Vir-Bazar ou dans les localités voisines.

Maintenant que rien ne s'oppose à la reprise des transports, le Prince vous sera fort obligé si vous voulez bien de nouveau employer vos bons offices pour préparer l'expédition de la quantité des grains restant dûe. Outre qu'il y a là une question d'alimentation des plus graves pour des populations cruellement éprouvées, Son Altesse sait que vous tiendrez particulièrement à ce qu'un arrangement conclu sous les auspices de votre Gouvernement, ou au moins de ses Représentants autorisés, soit loyalement exécuté en son entier.

Veuillez agréer, &c.
Par ordre de Son Altesse le Prince,
(Signé) R. DUBY, *Secrétaire.*

(Translation.)

Cettigné, February 27, February 9, 1878.

M. le Consul,

AS His Highness the Prince is sending to Scutari, on certain affairs, his Aide-de-camp and relation, M. Blajo Petrovich, he has specially directed me not to lose this opportunity of assuring you that he bears a pleasant recollection of you, and that he regrets he was unable to invite you to his camp when he first arrived near Antivari, at the time you proposed to visit him.

His movements were then so uncertain, his occupations so manifold, and his head-quarters so uncomfortably established, that he felt bound not to urge you to carry out your project, having so little chance of receiving you in the manner he holds to doing. He truly hopes that you in no way doubted of the pleasure he would have had in seeing you again; and now that circumstances have changed, he would be happy, if your duties permit it, to renew an acquaintance so agreeably commenced.

If you recollect, the extension given to the military operations prevented the execution of the good intentions of his Excellency the Commander-in-chief at Scutari, who had intended last autumn to send us the balance of the grain which remained, to the amount which the Turkish authorities had engaged under the guarantee of the English Consul-General to deliver at Vir-Bazar, or in the neighbouring localities.

Now that nothing exists to prevent the recommencement of the transport, the Prince would be very much obliged to you if you would again kindly use your good offices to cause the transmission of the quantity of grain still due to be undertaken. Besides that, it is a matter of the most serious consequence concerning the subsistence of populations which have been cruelly tried. His Highness knows that you will be most anxious that an arrangement concluded under the auspices of your Government, or at least of its authorized representatives, should be loyally and fully carried out.

Pray receive, &c.
By order of His Highness the Prince,
(Signed) R. DYBY, *Secretary.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 856.

Consul Kirby Green to M. Duby.

Scutari, February 19, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, handed to me this morning by M. Blajo Petrovich, and to beg you to convey to His Highness the Prince of Montenegro my most respectful thanks for His Highness' courteous and flattering expressions concerning me.

I have lost no time in communicating with Mouchir-General Hussein Husni Pasha on the subject of the balance of the Indian corn which the Turkish military authorities had undertaken to deliver to the Montenegrin Government viâ the Lake of Scutari, and his Excellency has expressed himself anxious to fulfil the engagement provided no impediment is placed in the way of the passage up the River Boyana of the steam-tugs and vessels which must bring the grain from the port of San Giovanni di Medua.

M. Blajo Petrovich, to whom I have communicated the above information, tells me that he believes the Montenegrin Government will readily fall in with Hussein Husni Pasha's suggestion.

In renewing my grateful acknowledgments for His Highness' courteous words, I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 857.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 21. Political.)

Scutari, February 11, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch, Political, No. 16, of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that the Turkish troops have driven before them, wherever they have wished to advance, the Mirdite insurgents, and that they have burnt from sixty to seventy houses, which in this country are the abode of large families, as community of possession among relatives is practised by the peasantry.

From a Mirdite source, I learn that the Bashi-Bazouks of Matia and Luria have invaded Mirdicia and are ravaging the country.

I have represented to the Governor-General the advisability of withdrawing these irregular troops from the district now that no more serious opposition can be expected, but his Excellency has led me to understand that he is not a free agent in the matter, and that he is following out the orders received from the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 858.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 228.)

St. Petersburgh, February 17, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the official text of the Protocol containing the preliminary Bases of Peace, as also the Convention of the Armistice signed at Adrianople on the 31st January.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 858.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of February $\frac{5}{17}$, 1878.

St. Pétersbourg, le 4 Février, 1878.

NOUS publions ci-dessous le Protocole constatant l'acceptation des Bases préalables de Paix, et la Convention d'Armistice, signées à Andrinople le $\frac{19}{31}$ Janvier.

Ces seulement hier, Vendredi $\frac{4}{16}$ Février, que, par suite des difficultés des communications, ces pièces sont parvenues à Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

Quelques dates ne seront pas inutiles pour éclaircir la marche de cette négociation, retardée par la nécessité du transfert du quartier général et par les interruptions des lignes télégraphiques dans une contrée à peine évacuée par l'ennemi.

Le $\frac{13}{25}$ Janvier, les Plénipotentiaires Turcs, n'ayant pas reçu la réponse de la Porte à la demande d'instructions définitives qu'ils avaient adressée de Kyzanlik, sollicitèrent la permission d'envoyer à Constantinople une lettre par un messager spécial à travers nos lignes d'avant-postes. Cette permission leur fut accordée, mais en même temps on les invita à donner une réponse un plus tard pour le $\frac{15}{27}$. Le $\frac{15}{27}$ ces Plénipotentiaires ayant reçu un télégramme de Constantinople daté du $\frac{14}{26}$

demandèrent une entrevue à Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc Commandant-en-chef. C'est alors qu'ils déclarèrent que la Turquie n'ayant plus les moyens de résister, souscrivait à toutes nos conditions. Ils témoignèrent en même temps le désir ardent d'une prompte conclusion qui permit d'arrêter les hostilités. Son Altesse Impériale Monseigneur le Grand Duc Commandant-en-chef désigna immédiatement des Plénipotentiaires militaires chargés de régler avec les Plénipotentiaires Turcs les détails de la ligne de démarcation et des conditions d'armistice. Le jour même les pourparlers commencèrent sur le Protocole d'acceptation des Bases Préalables et sur la Convention d'Armistice, et le $\frac{31}{19}$ Janvier, à 6 heures du soir, ces deux actes furent revêtus des signatures qui les rendent définitifs. Les ordres furent immédiatement donnés de suspendre les opérations sur toute la ligne; le Général Skobélew, dont le détachement se trouvait le plus rapproché de Constantinople, reçut cet ordre le soir même.

Ce n'a pas été sans peine que les Plénipotentiaires Turcs ont apposé leurs signatures au bas de ces actes. Ils ont compris que, dans la situation que la guerre avait faite à la Turquie, la paix était son seul salut.

En prenant la plume pour tracer son nom, le vieux Namyk Pacha ne put retenir ses larmes, et lorsque Son Altesse Impériale Monseigneur le Grand Duc lui tendit la main en lui exprimant l'espoir que désormais la Russie et la Turquie resteraient amies, Namyk Pacha pressa longtemps cette main loyale, sans pouvoir articuler une parole.

L'avenir prouvera que la réalisation de cette espérance serait conforme aux vrais intérêts de la Turquie, aussi bien qu'à ceux de la Russie et de l'Europe.

I.

En vue d'un armistice à conclure entre les armées belligérantes Russes et Ottomanes, leurs Excellences Server Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, et Namyk Pacha, Ministre de la Liste Civile de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, se sont rendus au Quartier-Général de Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc Nicolas, Commandant-en-chef de l'armée Russe, munis des pleins pouvoirs de la Sublime Porte; et les bases proposées par Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc, au nom de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie, ayant été acceptées par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, ont été établies d'un commun accord dans les termes suivants:

1. La Bulgarie, dans des limites déterminées par la majorité de la population Bulgare et qui, en aucun cas, ne sauraient être moindres que celles indiquées par la Conférence de Constantinople, sera érigée en Principauté autonome tributaire, avec un Gouvernement national Chrétien et une milice indigène. L'armée Ottomane n'y séjournera plus.

2. L'indépendance du Monténégro sera reconnue. Un accroissement de territoire équivalant à celui que le sort des armes a fait tomber entre ses mains lui sera assuré. La frontière définitive sera fixée ultérièrement.

3. L'indépendance de la Roumanie et de la Serbie sera reconnue. Un dédommagement territorial suffisant sera assuré à la première et une rectification de frontière à la seconde.

4. La Bosnie et l'Herzégovine seront dotées d'une administration autonome avec des garanties suffisantes. Des réformes analogues seront introduites dans les autres provinces Chrétiennes de la Turquie d'Europe.

5. La Sublime Porte s'engage à dédommager la Russie des frais de la guerre et des pertes qu'elle a dû s'imposer. Le mode, soit pécuniaire, soit territorial ou autre, de cette indemnité, sera réglé ultérieurement. Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan s'entendra avec Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie pour sauvegarder les droits et les intérêts de la Russie dans les Détroits du Bosphore et des Dardanelles.

Des négociations seront immédiatement ouvertes au Quartier-Général de Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc, Commandant-en-chef, entre les Plénipotentiaires des deux Gouvernements pour arrêter les Préliminaires de la Paix.

Aussitôt que les présentes Bases et une Convention d'Armistice auront été signées, les hostilités seront suspendues entre les armées belligérantes, y compris celles de la Roumanie, de la Serbie et du Monténégro, pour toute la durée des négociations de paix. Les Commandants-en-chef des deux armées belligérantes en Asie en seront immédiatement avisés à la conclusion d'un armistice qui mettra fin également aux opérations militaires.

Le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman donnera l'ordre aux troupes Ottomanes

d'évacuer, dès que l'armistice aura été signé, les forteresses de Widdin, de Roustchouk et de Silistrie en Europe, et celle d'Erzeroum en Asie. En outre les troupes Russes auront la faculté d'occuper militairement, pendant la durée des pourparlers, certains points stratégiques spécifiés dans les Conventions d'Armistice sur les deux théâtres de la guerre.

En foi de quoi le présent Protocole a été dressé et signé en double exemplaire à Andrinople le $\frac{31}{19}$ Janvier, 1878.

(Signé) NICOLAS.
SERVER.
NAMYK.

II.

Par suite de la proposition de la Sublime Porte, et du consentement exprimé par ses Plénipotentiaires, leurs Excellences Server Pacha et Namyk Pacha, d'accepter les bases formulées par la Russie pour la conclusion de la paix entre les parties belligérantes, le Commandant-en-chef de l'armée Impériale Russe s'est déclaré prêt à faire cesser les opérations militaires.

Pour la conclusion d'un armistice ont été désignés, en qualité de Plénipotentiaires: de la part de Son Altesse Impériale le Commandant-en-chef, Son Excellence l'Aide-de-camp Général Népokoïtchitsky, chef d'état-major de l'armée active, et son adjoint, le Général-Major de la suite de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, Lévitsky; et de la part des Plénipotentiaires de la Sublime Porte, Son Excellence le Général de division d'état-major Nedjib Pacha, et le Général de brigade d'état-major Osman Pacha.

Ces personnages, en vertu des pleins pouvoirs dont ils ont été investis, sont tombés d'accord sur les conditions suivantes:—

1. Un armistice est conclu entre les forces armées de la Russie, de la Serbie et de la Roumanie d'un côté, et celles de la Turquie de l'autre, pour toute la durée des négociations de paix et jusqu'à l'issue favorable de ces dernières ou jusqu'à leur rupture. Dans cette seconde alternative, et avant que les hostilités soient reprises, chacune des parties belligérantes sera tenue de dénoncer l'armistice trois jours à l'avance, avec la désignation de la date et de l'heure auxquelles les hostilités pourront être reprises. Le délai de trois jours courra à partir du moment où l'une des parties respectives aura signifié à l'autre sur les lieux l'ordre supérieur reçu à ce sujet.

Le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie proposera au Monténégro de cesser les opérations militaires et d'adhérer aux conditions de l'armistice convenu entre la Russie et la Turquie; la Sublime Porte, de son côté, cessera les opérations contre le Monténégro.

2. L'armistice aura force exécutoire du moment où ses conditions auront été acceptées et signées. Les troupes de l'une ou de l'autre partie qui, après ce terme, auraient enfreint la ligne de démarcation ci-dessous indiquée, devront se reporter en arrière en restituant le butin enlevé à cette occasion.

3. Outre l'évacuation des forteresses de Widdin, Roustchouk et Silistrie, stipulée dans les Bases de Paix, les troupes Impériales Ottomanes abandonneront Bulgradjik, Razgrad et Hadji-Oglou-Bazardjik.

En conséquence, la ligne de démarcation à établir entre les armées Russes, Serbes et Roumaines d'un côté, et les armées Ottomanes de l'autre, est tracée ainsi qu'il suit:

La ligne de démarcation passera par Baltchik et Hadj-Oglou-Bazardjik en droite ligne vers Razgrad, avec une zone neutre de cinq kilomètres en avant de cette ligne. Elle continuera de Razgrad en ligne droite à Eski-Djouma; d'Eski-Djouma à Osman-Bazar et Kotel (Kazan), qui seront occupés par les troupes Russes, et la zone neutre sera tracée en avant de la ligne à cinq kilomètres de distance.

Plus loin la ligne de démarcation longera les rivières Medran, Deli-Kamtchik, Bogazdéré, et, par le village d'Oglantoukeui et Hadjidéré, jusqu'à Misservi,—la zone neutre, d'une largeur de cinq kilomètres, suivant les deux rives de ces rivières jusqu'à la mer, et long de la côte, jusqu'au lac de Derkos. Toutefois, les troupes Russes n'occuperont sur la côte de la Mer Noire que Bourgas et Midia, dans le but de faciliter le ravitaillement des troupes et à l'exclusion de la contrebande de guerre.

Du Lac de Derkos la ligne de démarcation se dirigera par Tchekmedjik et Karidjali en ligne directe, en coupant le chemin de fer, sur la rive droite du Kara-Sou, dont elle suivra le cours jusqu'à la Mer de Marmara.

Les troupes Turques évacueront la ligne des fortifications, ainsi que Derkos, Hadomkeui et Bouyouk-Tchekmedjé. La ligne de démarcation de leur côté partira

de Kutchuk-Tchekmedjé en ligne directe par Saint-Georges et Akbounar sur la côte de la Mer Noire. Les terrains intermédiaires constitueront entre les lignes Turques et Russes une zone neutre où des travaux de fortification ne pourront être ni élevés ni augmentés, ni réparés pendant la durée de l'armistice.

A partir de la Mer de Marmara la ligne de démarcation passera par l'Isthme de Gallipoli, de Charkeui à Ourcha, et plus loin, le long de la Mer Egée, jusqu'à Dédéagatch et Makri, ce dernier point y compris. Ensuite, par la ligne où se produit la distribution des eaux des affluents de la Maritsa (y compris l'Arda) et des rivières qui se déversent dans la Mer Egée, jusqu'à Djouma.

Elle continuera sur une ligne tracée vers Kustendil, Vrania, Planina Goliak, le village de Meslitza, Grapchnitza Planina, le village de Loubtchó, jusqu'à la frontière du Sandjak de Novi-Bazar, pour aboutir par cette frontière à la Serbie, au point appelé Kopaonik Planina. Djouma, Kustendil, Vrania sont occupés par les troupes Russes ou Serbes; Prichtina, par les troupes Ottomanes.

Le tracé de la ligne de démarcation entre les troupes Impériales Ottomanes et celles du Monténégro devra s'effectuer par une Commission Spéciale de Plénipotentiaires de la Turquie et du Monténégro, avec la participation d'un délégué Russe. La fixation sur place des limites de la zone de démarcation entre les armées Impériales belligérantes devra avoir lieu sans délai, immédiatement après la signature de ces conditions, par l'entremise d'une commission d'officiers des deux armées ayant qualité à cet effet, et pris dans les corps et détachements les plus rapprochés des lieux du tracé. Là où il n'y aurait pas de troupes à proximité, la zone de démarcation suivra la direction et sera indiquée par les limites naturelles ci-dessus et qui sont portées à la connaissance des deux armées.

La zone de démarcation de Djouma par Vrania jusqu'à la frontière du Sandjak de Novi-Bazar sera fixée sur place par une Commission de Délégués des troupes Impériales Ottomanes, d'un côté, et des troupes Serbes de l'autre, avec la participation d'un délégué Russe.

4. Les troupes des deux parties belligérantes qui, à l'époque de la signature du présent acte, se trouveraient en dehors de la ligne indiquée, devront immédiatement être portées en arrière et cela pas plus tard que dans le délai de trois jours.

5. En abandonnant les points fortifiés indiqués à l'Article 3, les troupes Impériales Ottomanes se retireront avec leurs armes et leurs munitions de guerre et objets d'équipement, ainsi que le matériel qui peut être emporté, dans les directions suivantes:

De Widdin et Belgradjik, par le défilé de St. Nicolas, vers Ak-Palanka, Nisch, Leskovatz et par Vrania ou Prichtina, selon qu'il sera plus facile pour gagner le chemin de fer.

De Roustchouk, Silistrie, Hadji-Oglou, Bazardjik et Razgrad vers Varna ou Choumla, selon que l'autorité militaire Ottomane en décidera.

Le matériel de guerre et autre des forteresses, les navires de guerre ou appartenant à l'Etat et tout ce qui s'y rapporte, pourront à volonté être emmenés ou laissés à la surveillance de l'autorité militaire Russe, qui prendra des mesures pour leur conservation jusqu'à la conclusion de la paix, d'après un inventaire en double signé par les deux parties. Quant aux vivres qui sont exposés par leur nature à subir des avaries, ils pourront être vendus ou cédés à l'autorité militaire Russe contre un prix équivalent à convenir.

La propriété privée reste intacte.

L'évacuation des places et points fortifiés ci-dessus mentionnés devra être accomplie dans le délai de sept jours au plus tard, à partir de la réception de l'ordre y relatif par le commandant local.

6. Les troupes Impériales Ottomanes et les navires de guerre quitteront également Soulina dans le délai de trois jours, si les glaces n'y mettent pas obstacle. L'autorité militaire Russe, de son côté, fera enlever du Danube toutes les entraves, et ouvrira le fleuve à la navigation, tout en s'en réservant la surveillance.

7. Dans les provinces occupées par les troupes Russes ou alliées, dans lesquelles lors de la signature de ces conditions se trouveraient encore des autorités administratives Ottomanes, ces dernières devront y rester pour continuer à exercer leurs fonctions et y maintenir la tranquillité et l'ordre parmi la population; elles auront aussi à remplir, dans la mesure du possible, les exigences des autorités militaires Russes.

8. Les lignes de chemin de fer comprises dans le rayon occupé par les troupes Russes seront respectées comme toute propriété privée et l'exploitation en sera libre sur tout leur parcours. A cet effet, le Gouvernement Ottoman laisse aux Compagnies

la faculté de la circulation de leur matériel roulant sur toute l'étendue de la ligne occupée, tant par les armées Ottomanes que par les troupes Russes. Pour la circulation des passagers et des marchandises, une entière liberté sera accordée, sauf les restrictions suivantes: il sera défendu de transporter du matériel de guerre et des troupes à travers la ligne de démarcation. Dans le rayon occupé par les deux armées l'exploitation aura lieu sous la surveillance de l'autorité militaire de chacune d'elles.

9. La Sublime Porte lèvera le blocus des ports de la Mer Noire pour toute la durée de l'armistice et ne s'opposera plus à la libre entrée des navires dans ces ports.

10. Les malades et blessés appartenant à l'armée Impériale Ottomane qui resteraient dans le rayon occupé par les troupes Russes ou par celles de la Serbie et du Monténégro, seront pris sous la sauvegarde des autorités militaires Russes et alliées, mais ils seront soignés par un personnel médical Ottoman, s'il en existe sur les lieux. Les malades et blessés ne seront pas considérés comme prisonniers de guerre, mais ils ne pourront, sans autorisation spéciale des Chefs militaires Russes et alliées, se faire transporter sur d'autres points.

L'armistice commencera à courir à partir du $\frac{1}{13}$ Janvier, 7 heures du soir. Quant aux autres délais, ils sont stipulés dans le texte même de l'armistice.

Pour le théâtre de la guerre en Asie la fixation des délais aura lieu par l'entremise de Plénipotentiaires désignés par le Commandant-en-chef de l'Armée Russe en Asie et de ceux du Gouvernement Ottoman.

Le commencement de l'armistice sur le théâtre de la guerre en Europe sera notifié par le télégraphe au commandement de l'armée Russe en Asie.

(Signé) NÉPOKOUTCHITSKI.
LÉVITSKY.
NEDJIB.
OSMAN.

No. 859.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, February 20, 1878, 7·28 P.M.

COUNT ANDRASSY has learnt that the new Bulgaria proposed by Russia will include Salonica and Janina, which makes him regard the project as even more entirely inadmissible than he had before held it to be.

Independently of its other bearings on Austrian interests, it would be fatal to those of the Greeks, whose position would be further aggravated if the unfortunate Mussulmans whom it is proposed to expel from Bulgaria settled in Thessaly and Epirus.

Count Andrassy had also heard of the intention of Russia to isolate Bosnia by bringing the frontiers of Servia and Montenegro together, and he at once declared that if this were done Austria would take possession of the province.

He would state this at the Conference as an irrevocable determination, from which nothing would move him.

Count Zichy had reported probability of a Russian occupation of Constantinople in force if all demands were not complied with by the first days of March; and Count Andrassy seemed to think that the Porte should protest and appeal to the Powers.

If Russia should occupy in force, the Powers must, he thinks, at once send up their ships; but what result he expected from such a measure was not plain to me.

No. 860.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, February 20, 1878, 7·28 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador at St. Petersburgh telegraphs that Prince Gortchakow having learnt that neither Prince Bismarck nor your Lordship would attend a Congress, states that he would also abstain from doing so.

Count Andrassy was far from being pleased with this intelligence.

He had proposed a Conference, and at Prince Gortchakow's instance this was changed to a Congress, and now he was to change again.

He expressed the hope that if your Lordship could not attend some Cabinet Minister might.

His Excellency understands also that M. Depretis would not attend.

My impression is that he would not like to be the only Minister for Foreign Affairs who took part in it; but upon my observing that, as the Minister who convoked the Conference, he was in an exceptional position, he gave me to understand that he would himself attend even if no other Minister did.

He supposes that it is intended to send General Ignatiew, and thus put off time while he is finishing his present work at Constantinople and till he gets his instructions at St. Petersburgh.

No. 861.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 254. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 20, 1878, 2·15 P.M.*

I WAS misinformed as to proposal in terms of peace that Austria was to take part in the arrangements of Bulgaria; she is only to be consulted with regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina. General Ignatiew claims Batoum.

I have now succeeded in getting copies of communications from Safvet Pasha of all that passed at Adrianople, but this must be kept most secret. The occupation of Bulgaria by 50,000 Russian troops is to be for two years. I will telegraph further about conditions.

No. 862.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 255. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 20, 1878, 3·30 P.M.*

FOLLOWING are the chief points of difference between Bases of Peace as communicated, and my telegram No. 243:—

Mussulmans are to leave Bulgaria, but no fixed time is named for their doing so.

Russia wishes question of administration of Bulgaria settled at once at Adrianople, the Bulgarians being previously consulted on the subject.

All Bulgarian exiles are to be allowed to return.

Bulgarian Prince not to be a European.

Russian Commission to sit there for two years.

Roumania has asked an indemnity of 200,000,000 fr., but General Ignatiew proposed that Turkey should cede to Russia the Dobrudscha entirely or in part, and likewise Province of Toultcha, which Russia will hand over to Roumania instead of indemnity.

Very heavy territorial concessions will have to be made to Servia.

Protocol of London, with regard to Bosna-Serai, is rejected, situation having now changed.

Question of Mount Athos was also put forward, especially as regards provision to be made for the priests and the monasteries.

Indemnity demanded by Russia, which is one milliard four hundred and ten million roubles, represents war expenses, commercial and industrial losses, indemnity for Russian merchants in Turkey, and damage done in the Caucasus.

General Ignatiew had heard that Turkey was about to sell her fleet and Crete to England, and upon the Plenipotentiaries denying this, he proposed instead of indemnity that Kars and Batoum should be ceded, and Asiatic frontier rectified.

Certain special provision to be made for Russian Consuls and merchants in Turkey.

Three months after the conclusion of peace the Russian army will leave for Russia, embarking at Bourgas and Varna.

Please consider above as most secret, and as not coming through me.

No. 863.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 257.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February 20, 1878, 9.30 P.M.*

COUNCIL held at Palace has just decided not to give up Turkish fleet to Russia nor to England, and that in case any attempt should be made on either side to take possession of it, every ship shall be sunk. Prime Minister has pledged his word of honour to that effect to M. Onou, who returns to convey this proposal to the Grand Duke. As regards the occupation of Constantinople, Prime Minister has requested M. Onou to endeavour to induce the Grand Duke not to advance beyond San Stefano, and to consider and proclaim the occupation of a suburb as the occupation of the capital. Prime Minister himself will so accept it, and admit it to Europe. Prime Minister hopes in this manner to prevent offensiveness of actual entry of the troops into the city, provided that British ships remain at their present distance from the Bosphorus.

No. 864.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 258.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February 20, 1878, 10·20 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Porte regrets that it cannot consent to cable being placed between Tenedos and Scio, as it has already made a contract, upon which 8,000*l.* have been paid, for a cable between Dardanelles and port of Lagos for connection with Otranto and Gradizta. Cable is on its way from Malta, and it is expected to be placed within eight days.

No. 865.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 259. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February 20, 1878, 10·30 P.M.*

ACCORDING to a telegram received to-day from Safvet Pasha the following is the indemnity demanded by Russia:—Ardahan, Kars, Batoum, Bayazid, and an adjoining part of Lazistan and of Armenia to the Soghanli Dagh; a special Russian and Turkish Commission to settle the Asiatic frontiers of the two countries; the cession of some iron-clads to be chosen by Russian officers; bonds to be issued by the Porte for 40,000,000*l.* sterling, the interest and sinking fund to be secured and guaranteed by the tributes of Bulgaria and of Egypt, the revenues of Anatolia and the coal mines of Heraclea; the cession of certain specified districts in Dobrutscha and the islands in the Delta to be exchanged by Russia for the part of Bessarabia taken from her in 1856. The rights and privileges of the Danubian Commission are to remain intact.

No. 866.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, February 20, 1878, 1·45 P.M.*

BY orders of the Porte, Turkish Minister remonstrated yesterday with Greek Government with regard to the proceedings of Greeks on the frontiers. Minister for Foreign Affairs told me that he had replied that regular troops were strictly ordered not to cross the frontiers, and that irregulars were to be prevented from crossing.

Enrolment of volunteers to proceed to Turkish provinces and Crete continues.

I will send any information I can obtain as to the proceedings at Arta as soon as possible.

No. 867.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 43. Private and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February* 20, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of 18th, I venture to suggest that as Her Majesty's Government have engaged not to land troops on European side of the Dardanelles, similar engagement should be taken by Russia not to occupy territory forming the European or Asiatic shores of Bosphorus. Our renunciation of occupying Dardanelles ought in reciprocity to claim from Russia similar renunciation of occupying any part of Bosphorus, although I attach but little importance practically to any Russian assurances of this nature. Russian military position amounts to the virtual occupation of Constantinople, European shore of Bosphorus, and to command of Gallipoli, as with her disposable forces she can occupy either when she judges fit to do so. She can, therefore, easily give assurances which only bind for the present moment, while she is perfectly unfettered in regard to Bosphorus, which is in reality her principal aim. If, therefore, we engage not to occupy Dardanelles, Russia should engage not to occupy Bosphorus, otherwise we are at a disadvantage; still more so if we bound ourselves not to land troops on the Asiatic side, thus debarring ourselves from landing troops on the one side, while the other is lined with Russian troops. It is, I believe, with a view to Bosphorus as well as Constantinople that Prince Gortchakow has asked for no English troops to be landed on Asiatic coast.

I should remind your Lordship that it is military considerations which are at present chiefly guiding diplomacy of this country.

No. 868.

Sir E. Thornton to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, February* 20, 1878.
(Confidential.)

A RUMOUR derived from "Observer" is current here that Russia is about to invite the United States to take part in the proposed preliminaries of the Conference.

Mr. Evarts told my Turkish colleague that no official invitation had yet been received. If it came it would be taken into due consideration, although to accept it would be a deviation from the general policy of the United States.

The Turkish Minister thinks that it would be accepted.

No. 869.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Embassies.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1878, 9·15 A.M.

MR. LAYARD telegraphs that he is informed that Russians have demanded immediate surrender of the whole Turkish fleet, and that unless it is given up at once they will enter Constantinople by force.

The Russians also now demand that 30,000 men shall occupy Constantinople, and M. Onou has been sent there to make arrangements for it.

No. 870.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus and other Embassies.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1878.

I HAVE given the following Memorandum to Count Schouvaloff to-day:—

"In the event of the Russian troops entering Constantinople without the consent of the Sultan, Her Majesty's Government would feel themselves compelled to withdraw their Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, and, in that state of things, they must decline to go into Conference."

No. 871.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, February* 21, 1878.

RUSSIAN Minister has informed the Shah at private audience that the Emperor learns with satisfaction the intention of the Shah to revisit Europe; that Royal carriages will be sent to Persian frontier to convey His Majesty and suite through Georgia and the Caucasus; that Prince Mentzikoff will be in attendance through Russian territory, and that Emperor, although the visit is made *incognito*, will himself defray all travelling expenses in Russia.

No. 872.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, February* 21, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 19th instant, I have received this morning the following telegram from the "Times'" correspondent at Sourpi, dated yesterday:—

"Many thanks. There has been no attack, and the women and children are safe at Sourpi."

Above sent to Constantinople.

No. 873.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, February* 21, 1878.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that the documents referred to in Prince Bismarck's speech are those published officially in the "St. Petersburgh Gazette," and in No. 12 Eastern Papers.

No other documents on the subject are known to the German Government.

No. 874.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.[a]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1878, 4·15 P.M.

GREEK Chargé d'Affaires has communicated telegram from his Government contradicting statement of the Porte that Greek troops have crossed the frontier, and stating that having once promised the Powers to withdraw them, Greek Government could not order them again to cross.

No. 875.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Embassies.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1878, 5·5 P.M.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF has communicated memorandum to the following effect:—

"Prince Gortchakow charges me to communicate to your Excellency that the Imperial Cabinet does not intend to occupy the Asiatic shore of the Dardanelles if England also abstains from doing so. Should this condition be fulfilled as well as that of not landing English troops on the European coast of the Straits, we will not occupy Gallipoli, and will not enter the lines of Bulair."

---

[a] Identic telegram sent to Mr. Layard.

No. 876.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.)
Foreign Office, February 21, 1878, 5·25 P.M.

CAN you ascertain whether Colonel Schelihn is employed by the Russian Government to torpedo the Dardanelles, and whether he is at St. Petersburgh? Colonel Wellesley thinks that you could ascertain his address either from one of the Chancery servants or from Mr. Scott Russell.

No. 877.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Embassies.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, February 21, 1878.

MR. LAYARD reports that Porte has decided not to give up Turkish fleet to Russia nor to England, and, in case attempt should be made on either side to take possession of it, every ship will be sunk. Prime Minister has pledged his word to this effect to M. Onou, who returns to convey this proposal to Grand Duke.

No. 878.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, February 21, 1878, 4·15 P.M.

I COMMUNICATED confidentially to Count Andrassy the Russian demands, as reported in Mr. Layard's most secret telegram, without letting him know from whence the information came. His Excellency was much moved, but said that without money he could do nothing, and that he had already explained the difficulty and delay he was exposed to in getting it.

He wished to know whether (if he determined to mobilize Austrian army) it would be possible for Her Majesty's Government to make an advance of some millions sterling upon the security of a loan which he would undertake to procure arbitrarily; and in the event of Her Majesty's Government being able to agree to such an arrangement, he wants to know whether they could quickly obtain sanction of Parliament for it.

No. 879.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, February 21, 1878, 6·30 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of yesterday respecting Prince Auersperg's Speech, I have the honour to state that the only information possessed by Austrian Government about the Peace Preliminaries was that sent by Count Zichy and which gave the same version of them as Mr. Layard had given, with the exception of the discrepancies which I reported at the time.

No. 880.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, February 21, 1878.

COUNT ZICHY has sent the Austrian Government the same information as that given to your Lordship by Mr. Layard of the intention of the Russians to demand the surrender of the whole Turkish fleet.

He added that the measure was resolved upon in consequence of a report that Her Majesty's Government intended to purchase it.

No. 881.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21, 7.15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
Rome, February 21, 1878, 4 P.M.

M. DEPRETIS is much concerned at news of pretension of Russian Plenipotentiaries, of which he has heard nothing from Count Corti, who only telegraphed yesterday that there is again question of occupying Constantinople by Russians.

The Austrian Ambassador has received the following details:—

"Mussulman population to have one year for removing from Bulgaria, the limits of which on the west go nearly as far as Salonica and Janina; a war indemnity of five milliards; and Bulgaria to be occupied by 60,000 Russian troops till fulfilment of all conditions, and native militia formed."

M. Depretis does not know what to think of Prince Bismarck's speech, particularly that part which refers to intimacy with Count Andrassy, which he hears gives great satisfaction at Vienna.

M. Depretis evidently fears some arrangements between the three Empires contrary to the interests of the Western Powers, especially Italy. Austrian policy inspires him with uneasiness.

M. Nigra telegraphs that Prince Gortchakow will not go to Conference, as your Lordship and Prince Bismarck do not attend.

No. 882.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 269.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, February 21, 1878.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 197 of the 8th instant, inclosing extracts from Mr. Consul Blunt's Journal relative to the entry of the Russian forces into Adrianople, and the state of affairs there; and I have to request your Excellency to convey to Mr. Blunt my high approval of his conduct and of the arrangements made by him, in conjunction with his colleagues, for the maintenance of order.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 883.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.**

(No. 275.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, February 21, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a telegram received by M. Gennadius from his Government, and of which he has communicated a copy to me, contradicting the statement of the Porte that the Greek troops have again crossed the frontier, and stating that, having once promised the Great Powers to withdraw these troops, the Greek Government could not give orders for them to cross again into Turkish territory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 884.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.†

(No. 280.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, February 21, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a Memorandum which has been communicated to me this day by the Russian Ambassador at this Court, containing assurances from the Imperial Government in regard to the occupation of the shore of the Dardanelles and Gallipoli.‡

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

---

* A similar despatch was addressed to Mr. Wyndham.

† Similar despatches were addressed to Lord A. Loftus, Lord Lyons, Lord Odo Russell, Sir H. Elliot, and Sir A. Paget.

‡ No. 895.

No. 885.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(No. 176.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1878.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying copy of a Memorandum which I have this day given to Count Schouvaloff,† and in which Her Majesty's Government declare that, in the event of the Russian troops entering Constantinople without the consent of the Sultan, they would feel themselves compelled to withdraw their Ambassador from St. Petersburgh.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 886.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 182.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a telegram which has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting that the Porte has decided not to give up the Turkish fleet to Russia nor to England ;‡ and that in case any attempt should be made on either side to take possession of it, every ship will be sunk; and that the Prime Minister has pledged his word to this effect to M. Onou, who returns to convey this proposal to the Grand Duke.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 887.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.§

(No. 182 ? Secret.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1878.

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople informs me by telegraph that the Porte has finally decided not to surrender the Turkish fleet either to Russia or to England, and that should any attempt be made by either side to obtain possession of it, every ship will be sunk.

M. Onou, to whom the Prime Minister has pledged his word to this effect, will immediately convey a proposal to this effect to the Grand Duke Nicholas.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 888.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 143. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1878.

I INCLOSE to your Excellency copy of a Memorandum upon the subject of the conditions of peace demanded by General Ignatiew, which has been placed in my hands confidentially by Count Beust.‖

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

---

* A similar despatch was addressed to Mr. Layard. † No. 895. ‡ No. 663.
§ Identic despatches were addressed to Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, and Sir H. Elliot.
‖ No. 829.

No. 889.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(No. 145.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1878.

I INCLOSE copy of a telegram received from Mr. Layard respecting the reported Russian demands for the surrender of the Turkish fleet and the occupation of Constantinople.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 890.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.‡

(No. 147.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1878.

I INCLOSE copy of a Memorandum given by me to-day to Count Schouvaloff,§ informing him of the attitude which will be assumed by Her Majesty's Government if the Russian troops should enter Constantinople without the consent of the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 891.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 29.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 88 of the 7th instant, reporting the steps taken by you, in concert with your French colleague, with a view to induce the Greek Government to withdraw the troops which had invaded Turkish territory; and I have to express to you my approval of your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 892.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 30.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1878.

I ENTIRELY approve the language employed by you to M. Delyanni, as reported in your despatch No. 71 of the 2nd instant, relative to the entry of Greek troops into Turkish territory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 893.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 31.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,‖ containing information as to the state of affairs at Adrianople since its occupation by the Russians.

You will perceive that Her Majesty's Consul in that city bears testimony to the cordial co-operation which he received from members of the Consular body in the repression of disorders, and mentions especially the name of M. Gennadius, the Greek Consul; and I have accordingly to instruct you to bring to the notice of the Greek

* Identic despatches were addressed to Lord A. Loftus and Lord Odo Russell. † No. 863.
‡ A similar despatch was addressed to Lord Odo Russell. § No. 897. ‖ No 623.

Government the valuable services rendered by that gentleman in the maintenance of order.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 894.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(No. 4. Political.)
Foreign Office, February 21, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 17, Political, of the 31st ultimo, concerning Prince Cherkaski's scheme for the reorganization of Bulgaria, and I have to express to you my thanks for this report.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 895.

Lord Tenterden to Acting Consul Freeman.

(No. 1. Political.)
Foreign Office, February 21, 1878.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 5, Consular, of the 1st instant, and I am to express to you his Lordship's approval of your having instructed Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper to proceed to the district of Novi-Bazar to watch events on the Servian frontier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 896.

Memorandum communicated by Count Schouvaloff, February 21, 1878.

LE Prince Gortchakow me charge de communiquer à votre Excellence que le Cabinet Impérial n'entend pas occuper la côte Asiatique des Dardanelles si l'Angleterre s'en abstient également.

Si cette condition était remplie, ainsi que celle de ne pas débarquer de troupes Anglaises sur la côte Européenne des Détroits, nous n'occuperons pas Gallipoli et n'entrerons pas dans les lignes de Boulaïr.

No. 897.

Memorandum given to Count Schouvaloff, February 21, 1878.

IN the event of the Russian troops entering Constantinople without the consent of the Sultan, Her Majesty's Government would feel themselves compelled to withdraw their Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, and in that state of things they must decline to go into Conference.

No. 898.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 201.)
Constantinople, February 9, 1878.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship has informed me that the news sent by me to your Lordship on the 5th instant, with reference to the advance of the Russians upon Silivria and Tchataldja, and the consequent alarm here, had not been confirmed by information received at Paris, Berlin, and Vienna. It appears, however, from your Lordship's telegrams, that no intelligence had reached those places from Constantinople of a later date than the

4th. This is explained by the fact that on that day the direct telegraphic communication with Europe was interrupted, and that the only means of sending telegrams was viâ Fao-Bombay. As the expense of doing so was very considerable, and the Telegraph Office would not answer for the safe transmission of messages, my colleagues would not avail themselves of this route, but continued to send their telegrams by the Egyptian line, which was temporarily interrupted, on the chance of their being forwarded.

Your Lordship will have observed that, in my telegram No. 167 of the 5th instant, I begged your Lordship, at Count Zichy's request, to communicate the information that I telegraphed to you to Count Beust.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 899.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 202.)
Constantinople, February 9, 1878.

My Lord,

IT appears to have been assumed in the House of Commons and in the English press that the mistake which led to the recall of the British fleet from the Dardanelles a short time ago is to be attributed to Her Majesty's Embassy. I have satisfied myself that such is not the case by obtaining from the telegraph office here the original numbers sent to it for transmission to England. The change in the cypher which converted "Sultan" into "Congress" was made by some telegraph clerk. As your Lordship is aware, at the time that my telegram was sent, nothing was known, by me at least, of the meeting of a "Congress."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 900.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 204.)
Constantinople, February 11, 1878.

My Lord,

IT appears that as soon as Server Pasha received information from me that orders had been given by Her Majesty's Government for a detachment of the fleet to come to Constantinople, he acquainted the Grand Duke Nicholas, by telegraph, of the decision taken by Her Majesty's Government, and of the protest made by the Vali against the entry of British ships of war into the Dardanelles. His Imperial Highness immediately replied that if danger was to be feared to the Christians and Russian subjects in the capital, he should be compelled to have recourse to similar measures for their protection. His Imperial Highness added that as the presence in Constantinople of a foreign armed force, in violation of Treaties, during the pending negotiations for peace, would seriously affect the position of the Porte, he had warned the Emperor that he might be compelled to take guarantees in order to insure the understanding which had been come to between himself and the Turkish Government.

The Prime Minister, who communicated the substance of the Grand Duke's telegram to me, begged me to point out to your Lordship that the apprehensions he had felt as to the result of the presence of the British fleet at Constantinople were not unfounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 901.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 205. Most Secret.)
Constantinople, February 9, 1878.

My Lord,

SERVER PASHA, on his return from Adrianople yesterday, gave the Sultan an account of a conversation he had held with the Grand Duke Nicholas on his departure from the Russian headquarters. His Majesty requested a minute to be

made of it, which has been shown to me secretly. I had only time to make hurried pencil notes of its principal heads, but I think that the following fairly represents its substance:—

The Grand Duke said that as the air of Adrianople did not agree with him he had determined to remove his head-quarters to a milder climate on the sea, and had chosen Silivria for them. He was going there immediately, and would remain there whilst negotiations for peace were going on, and until the war was entirely at an end. His Imperial Highness warned the Plenipotentiaries that it was absolutely necessary that the Porte should send its Delegates to Adrianople without a moment's delay to sign the preliminaries, of which General Ignatiew was the bearer. Russia was determined to prevent England and Austria interfering in the settlement of affairs between her and Turkey. From those two Powers the Porte could not, under any circumstances, expect help. The Russian Government was, moreover, ready to deal with Austria, and was now preparing 300,000 men for the purpose. His Imperial Highness further warned the Plenipotentiaries that if Austria, or any other Power, were to interfere to prevent the Christians obtaining that which Russia had demanded for them there would be a general massacre of the Mahommedans, and he would be powerless to prevent it.

The Russian forces would have to occupy the Bulgarian Principality for at least one year after the conclusion of peace to maintain order, and to carry out the new administration.

Russia was desirous to separate Turkey from the Western Powers, and to form a triple alliance with her and Germany.

Russia will do everything in her power to prevent the English fleet from entering the Dardanelles. He had been informed, His Imperial Highness said, that disturbances were apprehended at Constantinople. He had, indeed, learnt that very day that there was already a commencement of them. If he found reason to believe that the danger were serious, he would himself enter the capital with his forces, to protect the lives and property of its inhabitants.

His Imperial Highness expressed great regret at the recent change of Ministry, which had placed Ahmed Vefyk Pasha at the head of affairs.

His Imperial Highness observed that an understanding had existed for the last three years between the three Empires, Russia, Germany, and Austria, with the object of separating altogether the Christian from the Mussulman population. It was on this account that the Western Powers were unable to interfere in the Eastern question. Turkey was consequently left alone.

Constantinople, His Imperial Highness expressed his conviction, could only remain for about four years longer the seat of the Turkish Government. At the end of that time the Turkish Empire would be in the greatest danger.

The Bases of Peace which had been presented to Turkey, and which were about to be developed in the preliminaries to be signed by the Russian and Turkish Plenipotentiaries, admitted of no modification whatever. His Imperial Highness therefore advised the Porte to accept them without a murmur.

His Imperial Highness fully admitted that what he had seen of the Bulgarians convinced him that they were totally unfit for self-government; but Russia must complete the work upon which she had entered, and as the Bulgarians were hated by Christians, they must be freed by her. His Imperial Highness spoke highly of the bravery of the Turkish soldiers, and of some of the Turkish commanders. He attributed the defeat of Turkey to the incapacity and treachery of Suleiman Pasha, who, His Imperial Highness said, was the cause of all the misery and misfortunes that had befallen the country.

The Plenipotentiaries seemed to have been struck by some of the habits of the Russians, and Server Pasha particularly described to the Sultan how a priest with a crucifix was always present at the Grand Duke's table, and recited prayers before and after meals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 902.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 207. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 9, 1878.*

MR. WYNDHAM'S Confidential despatch to your Lordship No. 38 of the 28th ultimo, a copy of which he has transmitted to me, appears to confirm, as your Lordship will no doubt have remarked, the information that I have sent to your Lordship as to the desire shown by Prince Bismarck or the German Government to push Greece into war with Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 903.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 208.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 9, 1878.*

AS I had received yesterday evening a telegram from Mr. Wyndham informing me that the Greek Government had actually sent orders for the withdrawal of the Greek regular troops from the Turkish territory, I called early this morning upon the Prime Minister to make a personal appeal to him to suspend all hostile demonstrations against Greece, and to send instructions at once to the Turkish Commanders in Thessaly to avoid, if possible, any collision with the invaders. His Highness expressed himself much pleased with the steps taken by England and France at Athens to prevent a further effusion of blood and the devastation of the Turkish border provinces. He authorized me to state to your Lordship that, if the promise of the Hellenic Government to withdraw its troops were communicated to the Porte officially through the British and French Governments, steps would be immediately taken to stop all military operations against Greece. His Highness, however, insisted that the action of the Hellenic Government should extend to the armed bands which had crossed the frontiers, and which were as much under its orders as the regular troops. Should the Hellenic Government, his Highness observed, pretend that such was not the case, then these irregulars could only be treated as brigands, and there was a Convention between Turkey and Greece which enabled the two countries to take measures to deal with them. The Greek Government had only to send officers to assist the Turkish authorities in compelling these bands to retire across the frontier.

His Highness informed me that he had decided to send three or four iron-clads to Volo at once; they were necessary for the conveyance of troops and of war material, and for the protection of the lives and property of Turkish subjects and territory. But he promised me that they would not proceed further, or make any demonstration off the Greek coast, if Greece were prepared to fulfil loyally the promise she had given to England and France of withdrawing her troops from Thessaly. If, however, the promise was not kept, the iron-clads would be directed to proceed without loss of time to Syra and the Piræus.

I urged upon his Highness to take immediate steps for the protection of the Christian inhabitants of the border provinces, and for the withdrawal of the Albanians and other irregulars. He replied that although he could not give me an official promise on the subject, he would tell me privately that he was going to replace the present Governor of Thessaly by better man, in whose judgment and discretion he had full confidence, and that measures would be adopted for the removal of the irregulars from Thessaly, if there were no further reason for expecting an attack from Greece. His Highness added that he had already taken steps to prevent others being sent there.

After seeing Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, I called upon the Greek Minister, who, up to last night, had not been informed by his Government that orders had actually been sent for the withdrawal of the Greek troops; but he had just received a telegram, which he was then deciphering, to that effect. I earnestly begged him to lose no time in communicating this information officially to the Porte, in order to avoid events happening, which might render it more difficult to maintain peace between the two countries. M. Coundouriottis observed that he did not feel any anxiety with regard to an attack by the Turks upon Syra or the Piræus, as Greece had received a promise of

assistance from one of the Powers, he declined to say which of them, in case a Turkish fleet should attempt to bombard those places or any open towns.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 904.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 209. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 9, 1878.

THE Turkish Plenipotentiaries came back yesterday from Adrianople. I met Server Pasha this morning when I called upon the Prime Minister. His Excellency informed me that the Grand Duke Nicholas insists upon the immediate settlement and signature of the Preliminaries of Peace, and that General Ignatieff is expected at Adrianople to-day or to-morrow to conclude them. His Imperial Highness stated that he was not acquainted with those preliminaries, as he had only obeyed his orders from St. Petersburgh as Commander-in-chief of the army, and was not concerned in diplomatic negotiations.

Server Pasha is convinced that if the slightest difficulty is made by the Porte in accepting the demands of Russia, Constantinople will be immediately occupied by Russian troops. The Grand Duke is about to move his head-quarters to Silivria with this view. His Excellency is equally persuaded that the Russians will have recourse to the same measure should the Powers endeavour to modify, in any essential point, at the Conference, the Russian terms.

Both the Prime Minister and Server Pasha are much alarmed at the prospect of a Russian occupation of Constantinople. Russian agents might in that event, they think, promote disturbances which might lead to very serious results.

It is not yet settled whether Server Pasha, who is now generally believed to be entirely in the interest of Russia, will be sent back to Adrianople as the Turkish Delegate for the settlement of the Preliminaries of Peace, or whether another Plenipotentiary will be chosen. When Ahmed Vefyk Pasha requested him to retain his office as Minister for Foreign Affairs in the new Ministry, he refused to do so unless his conditions were accepted. Those conditions are believed to be that the Prime Minister should follow a Russian policy.

Server Pasha stated to me that scarcely a Mussulman house has been left standing by the Russians and Bulgarians in Roumelia. This appears to be confirmed to a certain extent by Consul Blunt, who informs me that the Cossacks had sacked the Turkish quarter in Adrianople and a large number of villages and farms in the neighbourhood. According to Mr. Blunt and to three English doctors, who have recently arrived here after passing through the country between Shipka and Adrianople, most shocking outrages have been committed upon the Mussulman population.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 905.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 210.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 9, 1878.

I ASKED Server Pasha this morning what was to become of the Turkish gunboats and other vessels of war on the Danube now that the Porte was to evacuate the fortresses on that river. His Excellency replied that the 5th Article of the Armistice provided that an inventory was to be taken of all armaments, ammunition, ships of war, and all property of the Turkish Government that could not be removed by the Turkish authorities within a certain time, and that they were to be left in charge of the Russians until peace was concluded, when they would be restored to Turkey.

He understood, therefore, that the Turkish flotilla on the Danube would remain where it was until peace was signed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 906.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 212.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 10, 1878.

I RECEIVED late yesterday afternoon your Lordship's telegram (sent the day before at 6 P.M.) informing me that Admiral Hornby had been instructed to proceed to Constantinople, for the protection of British life and property, with a detachment of the fleet, and directing me to request the Porte to give the necessary orders without delay that Her Majesty's ships should be permitted to pass the fortresses. Your Lordship further expressed the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that a further Firman was not required, but instructed me to procure one if I considered it desirable, and to communicate forthwith with the Admiral, who had received orders to proceed on the following day to Constantinople.

The moment I received your Lordship's telegram I sent to the Porte to apprise the Turkish Ministers of the approaching entry of the detachment of the fleet into the Dardanelles, and to request that orders might be sent without delay to the authorities there not to oppose its passage. The Council of Ministers was breaking up when my message arrived, but Server Pasha received it in time to submit it to his colleagues. It appears to have caused perfect consternation amongst them. I shortly afterwards received a note from Server Pasha expressing his surprise that at an interview I had had with him in the morning I had not mentioned the arrival of the fleet at the Dardanelles, and that Musurus Pasha had sent no information to the Porte on the subject. Consequently, his Excellency wrote, the Turkish Government were entirely ignorant by what right, and with what object, the English fleet was coming to Constantinople; adding that I was aware that the signature of the Bases of Peace and of the Armistice had placed the Porte in an entirely different position from that in which it was when the request for a Firman was made a month ago. Server Pasha begged me to give him my opinion on the subject, and the reasons which had induced Her Majesty's Government to take the decision in question.

I replied to his Excellency that when I saw him in the morning, I was not aware that a detachment of the English fleet had been ordered to Constantinople, and that your Lordship had informed me that Her Majesty's Government was sending it here to protect the lives and property of British subjects.

Late in the evening I received a letter from Ahmed Vefyk Pasha to say that the Russian army was at the gates of the city, and, moreover, that the Porte had a firm intention to hold to its engagements. Must this immense capital, and a million of innocent human beings, his Highness asked, perish in the midst of a conflict of foreign interests? The Porte protested against the step about to be taken by England, leaving to her the responsibility for so frightful a catastrophe. His Highness begged me to request Her Majesty's Government at least to respect their own declaration that the English Cabinet would not interfere, even if the Russians entered Constantinople. His Highness added in a postscript that he had that moment received a telegram from the Commandant at the Dardanelles informing him that six English ships of war were about to enter the Straits in a few hours, and that he had given him orders to call upon them to show their authority for doing so.

I immediately telegraphed the substance of the Prime Minister's letter to your Lordship, and informed Admiral Hornby that the Porte refused to grant the permission required for the passage of his ships through the Dardanelles.

This morning early, I received a further letter from Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, informing me that he had heard that the fleet had returned to Besika, and assuring me that there was nothing whatever to fear for the safety of foreigners in Constantinople.

Soon after, I received a telegram from Admiral Hornby, to the effect that the Commandant of the Dardanelles having been ordered by the Porte to protest against our ships entering the Straits, as contrary to the Treaty of 1856, he had returned to Besika to wait further communications from me and orders from home. I accordingly telegraphed to ask your Lordship what you wished me to do under the circumstances. I stated to your Lordship that the Porte would not grant the required Firman, as it was convinced that if the English fleet were to come up to Constantinople, the Russians would inevitably enter the city, as it is now completely open to them. It might then be the policy of the Russians to cause disturbances in Constantinople in order to justify its occupation.

I also informed your Lordship that I had no reason to believe that, for the present, any danger to British subjects and property in Constantinople need be apprehended.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—(Confidential). I inclose copies of the letters which I received from Ahmed Vefyk Pasha and from Server Pasha, referred to in my despatch; your Lordship will observe that they are private, and not official communications.

A. H. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 906.

Ahmed Vefyk Pasha to Mr. Layard.

Samedi.

Mon cher Ami,

A MON retour au Conseil, j'ai vu la demande de Mr. Sandison. L'armée Russe est à nos portes, et d'ailleurs notre décision de tenir nos engagements est inchangeable. Faut-il donc que cette immense capitale et un million d'innocents périssent au milieu du conflit des intérêts étrangers, et grâce à l'état de faiblesse où nous a réduit notre héroïque défense. Nous protesterons contre l'Angleterre, lui laissant la responsabilité de cette épouvantable catastrophe.

Eh bien télégraphiez en Angleterre que la déclaration du Cabinet Anglais de ne pas vouloir intervenir, même si l'ennemi entrait à Constantinople, soit respectée. Nous ne pouvons commettre un suicide, nous voulons sérieusement la paix.

Ecrivez à Londres et à la flotte, je vous en prie.

Tout à vous,
(Signé) AHMED VEFYK.

Inclosure 2 in No. 906.

Ahmed Vefyk to Mr. Layard.

Samedi, le 9 Février, 1878.

Mon cher Ambassadeur,

ON nous dit que la flotte retourne à Besbik. Je ne puis que nous féliciter de cet heureux incident.

Comment douter de la complète sécurité des étrangers dans notre capitale, après tout ce que nous y avons vu depuis dix ans. Nous sommes garants de nôtres, et j'ai fait partir 4,000 Circassiens seulement depuis deux jours. Qui a pu parler de danger pour les étrangers? Quel exemple à donner à chaque pays qui aura une flotille, et voudra essayer de forcer les Dardanelles! La guerre de Troie et ses dix années de lutte reviendraient donc dans notre siècle. Je ne perds sur les raisons qui ont pu dicter une pareille mesure. Nous n'avons plus de défense contre un ennemi qui nous pourrait attaquer par terre, et nous voulons sincèrement la paix.

Veuillez insister auprès de l'Amiral pour ne pas appeler notre imminent danger. Voilà déjà trois mois qu'il aurait fallu songer à des mesures d'une autre nature.

Excusez moi, &c.
(Signé) AHMED VEFYK.

Inclosure 3 in No. 906.

Server Pasha to Mr. Layard.

Samedi soir.

Chère Excellence,

MR. SANDISON m'a fait remettre aujourd'hui un billet pour m'informer qu'un détachement de la flotte Anglaise avait reçu l'ordre de se rendre à Constantinople, et demander en même temps la transmission des ordres nécessaires aux autorités des Dardanelles pour le passage de cette flotte.

Dans l'entrevue que nous avons eu l'honneur d'avoir aujourd'hui avec votre Excellence, elle ne nous a rien dit à ce sujet, et Musurus Pacha ne nous a, de son côté, rien écrit sur la même affaire. La Sublime Porte ignore donc complètement à quel titre et dans quel but la flotte Anglaise doit se rendre à Constantinople. De l'autre côté, votre Excellence sait que la signature des Bases de Paix et de l'Armistice nous met aujourd'hui dans une position toute nouvelle; position qui n'est plus la même lorsqu'une pareille nous a été faite il y a un mois.

Veuillez bien, mon cher Ambassadeur, me faire connaître votre opinion à cet égard, ainsi que les raisons qui ont déterminé le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique à prendre la décision dont il s'agit.

(Signé) SERVER.

No. 907.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 213.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 11, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Consul Blunt, transmitting to me the Addresses sent to him by the Armenian Archbishop and the Jewish community of Adrianople, thanking him for his care in preserving tranquillity after the withdrawal of the Ottoman authorities from the town.

As soon as I can communicate with Mr. Blunt, I shall express to him my warm approval of his conduct during the difficult and trying circumstances in which he has been recently placed. I trust that your Lordship will concur in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 907.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, February* 6, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Excellency copies of two Addresses which have been presented to this Consulate by the Armenian and Jewish communities with reference to the action taken by me, in common with the rest of the Consular Corps, for the preservation of public tranquillity on the withdrawal of the Ottoman troops and civil authorities from this town.

Similar letters of thanks have been sent to my Austrian, French, and Greek colleagues.

I may be permitted to add that it was very much owing to the harmony and cordial co-operation of the members of the Consular Corps that order was maintained; and I feel bound to bear special testimony to the prudence and energy with which my Hellenic colleague, M. Chomundis, used his influence with the numerous Greek community here towards that end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 907.

The Armenian Archbishop of Adrianople to Consul Blunt.

M. le Consul, *Andrinople, le 23 Janvier*, 1878.

LES soins vigilants et l'empressement Chrétien que vous avez démontrés pour maintenir la tranquillité de la ville, et pour prévenir les désordres qui auraient eu lieu probablement à la suite du départ du Gouverneur de la ville, d'après l'ordre de la Sublime Porte, nous obligent à vous témoigner, au nom de la nation Arménienne d'Andrinople, nos sincères remercîments et notre vraie gratitude.

En cette occasion je vous prie, M. le Consul, d'avoir l'obligeance d'agréer l'assurance de mes compléments et la gratitude de la nation Arménienne.

Veuillez, &c.
L'Archevêque Arménien d'Andrinople,
(Signature in Armenian.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 907.

The Jewish Community at Adrianople to Consul Blunt.

Andrinople, le 23 Janvier, 1878.

M. le Consul,

LA communauté Israélite d'Andrinople a l'honneur de vous remercier des généreux efforts que vous avez déployés pour la sauvegarde de la ville, et particulièrement du quartier Israélite, depuis le départ de l'autorité Ottomane jusqu'à l'occupation d'Andrinople par l'armée Russe.

Pour le Comité de l'Alliance,
(Signé) A. CARES.
Le Gérant du Grand Rabbin,
(Signature in Hebrew.)
Pour la Communauté,
(Nine signatures.)

No. 908.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 214.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 11, 1878.

CONSUL READE writes to me from Varna, on the 9th instant: "I have not recently heard of outrages on Mussulmans by Cossacks and Bulgarians, simply because they have kept out of their way; but from the recent conduct of these people at the different stations on the line of railway, I should be very sorry for any Mussulmans that fell into their hands. . . . . The Cossacks who have been sent in advance have always been accompanied by armed Bulgarians; but for violence and plunder the former are nothing to the latter, and from the well-known character of the Bulgarians, I think that the further their country is extended the worse it will be for the other nationalities, particularly the Greek. . . . . Although the armistice was signed on the 31st ultimo, on the 3rd and 4th Cossacks and Bulgarians were advancing, and causing great damage to the line of railway."

Mr. Reade describes the general exodus of the Mussulmans as still continuing, and their sufferings as terrible. He anticipates that their misery will be dreadful during the present, and perhaps the ensuing year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 909.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 216. Secret.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 11, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Memorandum drawn up by a person, not, I have reason to believe, a Turkish subject, who was officially attached to the mission of Server and Namyk Pashas, the Turkish Plenipotentiaries for the conclusion of the Bases of Peace. This document has been given to me very secretly. I have, of course, my suspicions as to its author, but I am not in direct communication with him. The important information which I have been in the habit of receiving from the same person has always proved to be remarkably correct, and I have every reason to think that the account he gives of what passed at the Russian head-quarters may be trusted. I receive from so many quarters reports of the feeling of hostility entertained by the Grand Duke Nicholas, and Russian officers in general, against England, that I can scarcely doubt that what my informant says on the subject is true.

Your Lordship will observe that it is stated in the inclosed Memorandum that the Turkish Plenipotentiaries did not receive the telegram from the Grand Vizier, authorizing them to accept unconditionally the terms demanded by Russia, until the 29th. I am convinced that the statement made to me by the Grand Vizier, and telegraphed to your Lordship on that day, that this authorization was sent on the

23rd, and repeated on three subsequent occasions, was correct, as I have been able to test it by independent evidence. The fact that it was not received by the Plenipotentiaries before the 29th may be accounted for by their departure with the Grand Duke from Kyzanlik for Adrianople on the 24th, unless these telegrams were purposely kept back.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

February 11.

P.S.—Since writing this despatch, I have succeeded in obtaining a copy of the counter-proposals submitted by the Turkish Plenipotentiaries to the Grand Duke Nicholas.

Inclosure 1 in No. 909.

Memorandum on Proceedings connected with Peace Negotiations.

LES Plénipotentiaires arrivés à Kyzanlik le 19 ont été reçus le 20 par le Grand Duc, qui leur a immédiatement communiqué les conditions préalables de l'armistice, et il leur a délivré copie de cette communication composée de cinq points qui sont connus.

Ces cinq points étaient précédés d'un préambule conçu dans les termes suivants.

Dans le cas où les Turcs demanderaient aux avant-postes un armistice ou la paix son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc devra leur notifier qu'un armistice ne pourra être accordé qu'après qu'ils auront accepté préalablement les bases suivantes.

Les Plénipotentiaires, après avoir fait des observations générales sur ces conditions, se sont retirés et ont rédigé des observations sous forme de contre proposition.

Ces observations ont été remises le lendemain matin 21 au Grand Duc, qui n'a pas voulu les recevoir, déclarant que le conditions posées ne pouvaient subir aucune modification. Les Plénipotentiaires ont alors demandé le temps de télégraphier à Constantinople pour avoir des instructions de la Porte. Le Grand Duc s'y est encore refusé, disant que tout devait être accepté ou rejeté immédiatement, attendu que ses troupes étaient entrées à Andrinople et marchaient sur la capitale. Les Plénipotentiaires ont maintenu leur décision de ne point signer sans en avoir référé à Constantinople, et c'est dans la soirée seulement que le Grand Duc s'est décidé à ne point rompre les pourparlers, mais seulement à les suspendre jusqu'à la réponse de Constantinople. Il leur a en même temps prévenu qu'il n'était plus lié lui-même par ses propositions, c'est-à-dire que les conditions pourraient être aggravées par suite des progrès de l'armée Russe.

Le Grand Duc avait d'ailleurs dit aux Plénipotentiaires que les conditions qu'il leur avait notifiées lui avaient été envoyées de St. Pétersbourg avant même la prise de Plevna, et qu'il était heureux qu'on ne les eût pas aggravées depuis lors.

Les Plénipotentiaires ont donc attendu les instructions qu'ils avaient demandées à Constantinople par dépêche chiffrée.

Le 24 le Grand Duc a quitté Kyzanlik pour porter son quartier général à Andrinople et les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans l'ont suivi. Ils sont arrivés à Andrinople le 26.

Le 29, une dépêche du Grand Vizir a autorisé les Plénipotentiaires à accepter purement et simplement les conditions de la Russie.

Le lendemain, 30, ils ont été reçus par le Grand Duc, qui leur a dit que de son côté il avait reçu un télégramme de St. Pétersbourg, qui lui ordonnait d'accorder trois jours aux Plénipotentiaires pour signer, et passé ce délai de ne plus rien accepter.

On a rédigé dans la journée le texte du Protocole. En outre deux officiers Russes et deux Généraux Turcs ont été constitués en commission pour faire la Convention d'Armistice. Il y a eu de longues discussions sur les points stratégiques que les Russes demandaient à occuper. Ils voulaient avoir le chemin de fer de Salonique à Mitrovitza et tout le littoral de la Mer Noire, excepté Varna. Enfin ils insistaient pour occuper toutes les fortifications de Constantinople, de Derkos à Buyuk-Tchekmedjé. On a obtenu au dernier moment que le chemin de fer de Salonique restât entre les mains des Turcs, que sur la Mer Noire les Russes n'occuperaient que Burgas et Midia, et que les fortifications de Derkos à Buyuk-Tchekmedjé fussent neutralisées.

Le Grand Duc et tout son entourage manifestent ouvertement leur animosité contre les Anglais.

Pour engager les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans à accepter ces conditions le Grand Duc leur disait sans cesse de se défier de l'agitation qui se produirait en Angleterre et qui finirait par causer des complications qui seraient au détriment de la Turquie.

Depuis la signature du Protocole les Russes ont continué à travailler l'esprit des Plénipotentiaires Turcs dans un sens anti-Anglais, essayant de leur démontrer que l'Angleterre pouvait être considérée comme chassée du Continent et ne pouvant plus avoir aucune influence en Europe, que la France réduite à l'inaction ne ferait rien pour eux, et que leur vraie politique devrait être une alliance avec la Russie. Cette idée d'alliance Turco-Russe s'est présentée si souvent dans les entretiens qu'il faut bien croire qu'elle est très sérieuse de la part des Russes. Il ne serait donc pas impossible que pendant les négociations qui vont s'ouvrir il soit question d'un Traité Secret.

Server Pacha s'est laissé gagner à ces idées et a manifesté hautement et publiquement sa pensée à cet égard, déclarant qu'il avait le regret d'avoir fait faire fausse route à son pays en suivant la politique Anglaise et que désormais sa politique serait exclusivement Russe.

Il n'est pas encore arrivé au point de vouloir faire un Traité d'Alliance, dont il n'a pas été question d'ailleurs jusqu'à présent, mais il en est bien près.

Ici Server Pacha a trouvé des dispositions favorables à ses vues, quoique moins accentuées.

Un point qui gêne beaucoup les Russes, c'est celui de la Constitution Ottomane, qui leur porte ombrage. Il ne faudrait pas s'étonner si Ignatiew faisait entendre que l'on désire à St. Pétersbourg l'abolition de la Constitution.

Les Turcs se préoccupent beaucoup de la Conférence. Ils ont reçu du Comte Andrassy que la Turquie y serait admise; mais Server Pacha a télégraphié hier à Essad Bey pour qu'il demande au Comte Andrassy quand se tiendra la Conférence et où; quels seront les objets dont elle s'occupera; si les points qui seront réglés par les préliminaires seront soumis à la sanction de la Conférence, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 909.

Answer of the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries to the Russian Memorandum.

LES Plénipotentiaires de la Sublime Porte ayant pris connaissance du mémoire que Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc Nicolas leur a communiqué au sujet des conditions auxquelles un armistice pourrait être conclu, exposent ainsi qu'il suit leur réponse à cette notification.

Sur le premier point relatif à l'administration de la Bulgarie, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans acceptent le système administratif inscrit dans le Protocole de Londres, adopté par la Russie aussi bien que par les autres Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de 1856 et refusé alors par la Sublime Porte.

Sur le deuxième point concernant le Monténégro, les Plénipotentiaires acceptent le principe d'un accroissement de territoire sous la réserve expresse de déterminer ultérieurement l'étendue de cet accroissement, c'est-à-dire de fixer ce que l'on doit entendre par l'équivalent du territoire actuellement occupé par les Monténégrins.

Sur le troisième point concernant la Roumanie et la Serbie, les Plénipotentiaires, en ce que touche la Roumanie, acceptent que cette Principauté soit érigée en Etat indépendant neutralisée. Pour ce qui est d'un dédommagement territorial à accorder à la Roumanie, les Plénipotentiaires déclarent qu'il est impossible que le principe d'un accroissement soit admis par la Sublime Porte.

Les Plénipotentiaires rappellent les droits acquis à des communautés religieuses Ottomanes sur les biens dits "biens déliés," et situés en Molde-Valachie, et déclarent que ces droits doivent être respectés.

Les Plénipotentiaires acceptent que le même sort soit fait à la Principauté de la Serbie, c'est-à-dire qu'elle soit reconnue indépendante et neutralisée. Ils proposent de réserver toute décision relative à la rectification des frontières de la Principauté.

Sur le quatrième point relatif à la Bosnie et à l'Herzégovine, les Plénipotentiaires déclarent s'en référer aux dispositions du Protocole de Londres applicables au régime administratif de ces deux provinces. Ils ne peuvent accepter l'examen d'aucune question touchant l'administration d'autres provinces de l'Empire.

Sur le cinquième point, qui pose le principe d'une indemnité à fournir par la Turquie à la Russie, les Plénipotentiaires déclarent que le Gouvernement Impérial n'ayant jamais compris de ses prévisions l'éventualité d'une demande d'indemnité de guerre, ils ne sont pas en mesure de discuter cette question, sur laquelle ils espèrent que le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie n'insistera pas.

Tout ce qui concerne le passage des Détroits du Bosphore et des Dardanelles étant d'un intérêt général Européen, et réglé par des Conventions Internationales, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans se trouvent dépourvu de toute instruction et de tout pouvoir pour traiter cette question.

En ce qui touche les garanties matérielles demandées par la Russie pour la conclusion d'un armistice les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans sont convaincus que l'état actuel des opérations militaires, tant en Europe qu'en Asie, rend superflu pour la Russie le maintien d'une demande de cette nature.

No. 910.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 217.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 11, 1878.

I HAVE made frequent representations to the Porte on the subject of the lawless conduct of the Circassians towards the Mussulman and Christian populations, founded upon the reports of our Consuls and Consular Agents. The Turkish Government have been doing all in their power to repress the excesses of these people, who, knowing that they can expect little quarter from the Russians and Bulgarians, and that they will be driven out of the greater part of European Turkey, are revenging themselves upon the Christians, and securing all the plunder within their reach.

Ahmed Vefyk Pasha tells me that he is taking strong measures to put an end to the proceedings of the Circassians, and that he has given stringent orders for their immediate disarmament, which is now being effected. He intends, he says, to transport the greater number of them to parts of Asia Minor, where they will not be able to cause further mischief.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 911.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 218. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 11, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a textual copy, in French, made from the original telegram, of the answer of the Grand Duke Nicholas to the announcement by Server Pasha to His Imperial Highness that Her Majesty's Government had asked for a Firman for the passage of the Dardanelles by the British fleet, and that the Porte had refused to grant one.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 911.

The Grand Duke Nicholas to Server Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Andrinople, le* 10 *Février*, 1878, 11 P.M.

JE vous remercie pour communication au sujet de la tentative d'entrée de la flotte Anglaise dans les Détroits. J'approuve d'autant plus la réponse de la Sublime Porte que si j'avais redouté des dangers pour les Chrétiens et pour nos nationaux dans la résidence de Sa Majesté le Sultan j'aurais été obligé de recourir à des mesures analogues. Toutefois, vu situation modifiée que créerait à la Porte présence dans la capitale d'une force armée étrangère en violation du principe traditionnel de la fermeture de cette nature pourrait exercer sur la marche de nos négociations, j'ai cru devoir la signaler à l'Empereur pour le cas où je me verrais forcé d'assurer la sécurité de notre entente par une prise de garanties correspondantes.

No. 912.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 219.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 12, 1878.

THE Prime Minister came to me very late last night with a telegram which the Sultan had just received from the Emperor of Russia. He placed it in my hands; but I was unable to make a textual copy of it. It was to the following effect:—His Imperial Majesty states that he desires a durable and solid peace, and the re-establishment of good relations between Russia and Turkey. At the moment, however, when negotiations are being carried on between the two countries with this object, the British Government, acting upon the representations of their Ambassador at the Porte, and availing themselves of a Firman formerly issued, have decided upon sending a part of their fleet into the Bosphorus for the purpose of protecting the lives and property of British subjects. Other Powers have taken the same step. The resolution thus taken by the British Government and those Powers has induced His Imperial Majesty to consider whether he should not send a part of his forces to Constantinople to protect the lives and property of the Christians. If he adopted this measure it would only be to maintain order, and it could not, therefore, be opposed to the views ("contre la pensée") of His Majesty the Sultan.

The Emperor of Russia's telegram was dated Monday, 1·50 P.M.

I believe that the Sultan will reply to the effect that he is surprised at this communication; that all his subjects are protected; and that he knows how to maintain the rights of the Empire, as is proved by the fact that the English fleet retired as soon as it was informed by his Government that its passage through the Straits was a violation of existing Treaties. His Majesty trusts, therefore, that the Emperor will not have recourse to the measure referred to in his telegram.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 913.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 221. Secret.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 13, 1878.

I HAVE endeavoured to ascertain, by all the means in my power, whether any secret Treaty of Alliance between Russia and Turkey has been agreed to by the Turkish Plenipotentiaries, or whether one was proposed to them by the Grand Duke Nicholas. My impression is that no such Treaty has hitherto been concluded or seriously discussed. I think that the statement on this subject contained in the Memorandum inclosed in my Secret despatch No. 216 of the 11th instant may be trusted. It is confirmed to me from other sources.

My Austrian colleague tells me that he questioned Namyk Pasha, one of the Turkish Delegates, very closely as to the existence of a secret Treaty. The Pasha stoutly denied that there was one, but ended by admitting that the Grand Duke Nicholas had suggested to the Plenipotentiaries that the time was now come for Turkey to abandon her former allies, and to right herself closely with Russia, hinting that he would be ready to discuss a Treaty of Alliance with them. According to his own account Namyk Pasha indignantly rejected the overture.

Although no secret Treaty may hitherto have been concluded between Russia and Turkey, judging from past events in the history of the relations between Russia and the Porte, it is by no means improbable that one may be proposed, and that great efforts will be made to induce Turkey to accept it. The appointment of General Ignatieff as Russian Plenipotentiary for concluding the peace, and the arrival at Constantinople of M. Onou, the well-known head dragoman of the Russian Embassy, on a secret mission, are not calculated to remove the suspicions that exist on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 914.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 222.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a report addressed to me by Mr. Dragoman Marinitch of an account given to him by M. Tarin, a French gentleman, and one of the legal advisers of the Porte who accompanied the Turkish Plenipotentiaries on their mission to Kyzanlik, of the condition of the country through which they passed on their way to the Russian head-quarters. It more than confirms the information I have transmitted to your Lordship as to the dreadful state to which some of the richest parts of Turkey in Europe have been reduced by the Russo-Bulgarian invasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 914.

Mr. Marinitch to Mr. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Pera, le* 12 *Février*, 1878.

AYANT eu l'occasion de me trouver dans le cabinet de M. Tarin, lorsqu'il racontait les péripéties du voyage qu'il vient d'effectuer jusqu'à Kyzanlik, en compagnie des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, j'ai cru devoir recueillir et soumettre à votre Excellence quelques détails du spectacle terrible et navrant qui a frappé sa vue tout le long de la route.

Depuis le départ de Sirkedji Iskelessi jusqu'à son arrivée à Andrinople, M. Tarin a compté quinze trains, d'une quarantaine de wagons chacun, conduisant des fugitifs à la capitale. Ces malheureux fuyards étaient entassés les uns sur les autres, pêle-mêle, dans le dénuement le plus complet et presque morts de faim et de froid. Le long du chemin, on rencontrait des masses de réfugiés qui, dépourvus de moyens de transport, fuyaient devant l'ennemi à pied. Ce spectacle aurait pû faire saigner le cœur le plus dur.

De Tchorlou à Kyzanlik toute la route était littéralement jonchée de cadavres, surtout de femmes et d'enfants qui, selon toutes les probabilités, doivent avoir péri de faim et de froid. M. Tarin évalue à 30,000 le nombre de personnes qui sont mortes de misère et de souffrances. Comme les cadavres étaient pour la plupart enfoncés dans la neige, on ne pourrait pas savoir si parmi les victimes il y avait aussi des corps mutilés.

La ville d'Eski-Zaghra, cité importante, qui comptait jadis une grande et nombreuse population, quinze mosquées, autant d'églises et une foule d'autres monuments, n'est aujourd'hui qu'un monceau de ruines fumantes. Les cris lugubres des corbeaux seuls rompent le silence de la mort et de la dévastation. On se croirait transporté pour un moment, ajoute M. Tarin, aux guerres du moyen âge.

La ville de Kyzanlik a subi aussi le feu et le fer. Un tiers des habitations seulement a été épargné. Mais pas une âme vivante n'y est restée. De temps à autre l'on apercevait quelques fuyards qui erraient à la recherche de leurs chaumières.

Le village de Schipka n'existe plus; il a été complètement rasé par Suleiman Pacha.

Partout on aperçoit des chiens crevés, qui s'empoisonnent en dévorant les cadavres humains.

On ne saurait peindre, dit M. Tarin, avec des couleurs assez noires le tableau qu'il a eu devant les yeux jusqu'à son arrivée au Quartier-Général du Grand Duc Nicolas. Jamais, dit-il, guerre n'aurait pu laisser plus de vestiges de ruines et de désolation! Aussi, l'impression qu'il en a ressentie ne pourra jamais s'effacer de son esprit.

Au camp Russe, presque tous les officiers prodiguaient leurs soins à beaucoup d'enfants égarés qu'ils étaient parvenus à recueillir.

Les Russes ont avoué à M. Tarin que dans tous les villages qu'ils ont occupés ils ont dû laisser des détachements de troupes pour pouvoir protéger les Bulgares et les

Musulmans, qui cherchent à se venger mutuellement. Les Russes ont conclu par dire que les Bulgares sont mal intentionnés du même degré que les Turcs.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) HUGO MARINITCH.

No. 915.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 223.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 13, 1878.

I HAVE ventured to ask your Lordship by telegraph to-day, to give me instructions with regard to my conduct in the event of the Russians occupying Constantinople.

My Austro-Hungarian colleague has, he informs me, applied to his Government for similar instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 916.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 225.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 13, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 194 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch from Consul Blunt, relative to the ill-usage of the English doctors by the Russian military authorities, and reporting the steps he has taken to ensure better treatment to those who remained in their hands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 916.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, February* 6, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Excellency of the 4th instant, I have deemed it advisable to address to M. de Nélidoff a letter, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, calling his Excellency's attention to the ill-usage which Drs. Leslie, Neville, and Kirkpatrick, and Mr. Bell have suffered at the hands of the Russian military authorities, and requesting his Excellency to take the necessary steps with a view to the protection of the British subjects Messrs. Smith, Denton, and Goodridge, last heard of at Striglie, from similar treatment. Although I have not yet received any answer from M. de Nélidoff, I learn from indirect sources that the Grand Duke Nicholas is very much annoyed at the matter of which the four first-mentioned gentlemen have had to complain, and that His Imperial Highness has ordered that the whole of the circumstances be investigated by a Court-martial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 916.

Consul Blunt to M. Nélidoff.

Monsieur, *Andrinople, le 5 Février,* 1878.

IL est de mon devoir d'appeler l'attention de votre Excellence sur les faits suivants :

Les Sieurs Leslie et Neville, médecins de la Croix Rouge; Kirkpatrick, médecin du Croissant Rouge; et Bell, correspondent de "L'Illustrated London News," qui étaient accrédités auprès de l'armée Ottomane et qui sont tous les quatre sujets

Anglais, ont été amenés dans cette ville le 3 courant, en qualité de prisonniers de guerre. Ils m'informent qu'ils ont été traités comme tels depuis le 1er Janvier, jour où ils sont tombés dans les lignes Russes, jusqu'au matin d'hier 4 Février, et cela en l'absence d'un motif quelconque de plainte sur leur compte, et malgré que les certificats d'emploi et autres papiers de chacun d'eux fussent en règle et duement attesté, même par le Consulat-Général de Russie à Londres.

Ces messieurs ont été retenus d'abord à Striglié, près d'Araba-konak, par les autorités militaires Russes, durant l'espace de douze jours. Ensuite, le 13 Janvier, ils ont été forcés de se mettre en route, à pied et sous garde, pour Plevna par voie d'Orkhanié. De Plevna ils ont été dirigés, toujours à pied, vers Andrinople par l'itinéraire suivant, savoir : Lovatz, Selvi, Gabrova, Chipka, Kysanlik; Eski-Zaghra, Tirnova, Selmenlé, et Hermanli. Finalement, de Hermanli ils ont été amenés à Andrinople par le chemin de fer.

Les messieurs dont il s'agit se plaignent de ce que pendant leur long et pénible voyage jusqu'à Hermanli la garde qui les conduisait ne leur permettait pas de monter leurs chevaux, malgré le mauvais état des routes et les rigueurs de la saison, et qu'ils ont subi de la part de ces militaires des indignités et des souffrances que l'état même de prisonniers de guerre n'aurait aucunement justifié.

Ils ont eu à se plaindre surtout de la conduite inqualifiable d'un certain Capitaine Barunovski pendant leur séjour à Striglié. En signalant le nom de cet officier à votre Excellence j'aime à espérer que les autorités militaires supérieures reconnaîtront l'utilité d'ordonner qu'une enquête sévère soit faite sur ses procédés envers les sujets Anglais en question.

Je dois en même temps prier votre Excellence d'accorder une attention toute spéciale au sort de trois autres sujets de Sa Majesté Britannique que l'on m'assure être retenus comme prisonniers par les autorités militaires à cette même localité de Striglié.

Ces personnes portent les noms de Smith, Denton, et Goodridge. Le premier est un médecin de la Société du Croissant Rouge; les deux autres sont des infirmiers attachés au service de la même société.

Il n'est pas nécessaire de rappeler à votre Excellence que d'après les termes de la Convention de Genève les messieurs en question, non plus que les personnes dont il est question plus haut, ne doivent pas être considérés comme prisonniers de guerre. Par conséquent, et en vue des faits ci-dessus cités, je viens prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien prendre des dispositions, non seulement afin que les autorités militaires compétentes accordent à ces trois sujets Anglais la permission de quitter le pays, mais encore afin que toutes les facilités nécessaires leur soient données à cet effet, et j'espère qu'ils seront en outre l'objet d'une protection efficace.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 917.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 226.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 14, 1878.

THE Prime Minister presented himself this morning to the Turkish Chamber of Deputies, and announced to it that the Sultan, in accordance with the powers granted to him by the Constitution, had thought fit to dissolve it. I had been convinced for some days past that the Porte would be compelled to adopt this measure. The Chamber was assuming a position which made all government impossible, and which was threatening to lead to serious dangers. I had warned several Deputies that such would be the result of its proceedings, and had earnestly advised them to be prudent and moderate, whilst relaxing in no way from their efforts to reform the Administration, and to point out abuses.

It appears that yesterday some Deputies ventured to attack the Sultan personally, in offensive terms. This, I believe, led to the adoption of the resolution to dissolve the Chamber.

I have seen one or two Deputies to-day, and they are by no means dissatisfied with the step taken by the Government, admitting that it was absolutely necessary.

They say that amongst the Members were persons in the interest of Russia, who were endeavouring to produce discord in the Assembly, for the purpose of discrediting it, and to do mischief by propagating false and mischievous rumours. During the

last day, some of them have been making the most exaggerated statements about massacres, on a large scale, of Christians, and about Christian children said to have been brought in great numbers to Constantinople for sale, by Circassians. I am assured by the Porte, and by some of the Christian Deputies themselves, that these statements are unfounded, and that they have been thus publicly made with a view to influencing public opinion in Europe. They were denounced as such in the Chamber by Khalil Ghammi, the Christian Member for Beyrout,—a very intelligent, moderate, and impartial man,—as well as by other Members.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the Chamber will be again called together in quieter times, when it will be able to render real service to the country. It would be a matter for deep regret if a constitutional institution which promised so well, and in which I see almost the only hope for real improvement in the administration of the Empire, were destroyed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 918.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 227.)
Constantinople, February 14, 1878.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 208 of the 9th instant, I informed your Lordship that I had seen M. Coundouriottis in the middle of the day, after my interview with the Prime Minister on the subject of the suspension of military operations against Greece, and had found him deciphering a telegram which, he informed me, authorized him to notify to the Porte that the Hellenic Government had given orders for the withdrawal of their regular troops from Turkish territory. I was surprised to find on Monday evening, the 11th instant, that no communication to this effect had been made by M. Coundouriottis to the Porte. The Turkish Ministers complained to me that Hellenic troops continued to cross the frontier and to advance, and that consequently they were compelled to proceed with their military operations to meet the invasion.

On Monday evening I asked M. Coundouriottis why he had not notified to the Porte, as he had told me on Saturday that it was his intention to do, the order sent by his Government for the withdrawal of the Hellenic troops. He replied, that although he had gathered from the telegram which he had received on that day that he was directed to make a notification to that effect, there were so many mistakes in the cypher that he could not take upon himself the responsibility of acting upon it. He added that all the telegrams that came to him from Athens arrived in the same condition.

I expressed my surprise to M. Coundouriottis that after I had communicated to him Mr. Wyndham's telegram of the 7th instant, informing me that the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs had stated that orders for the withdrawal of the troops had actually been sent, he should have hesitated to act upon his telegram. I observed that I had no reason to complain of the state in which telegrams from Athens reached me, and that, if he wished it, I would at once request Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires by telegraph to inform the Hellenic Government how matters stood. By his desire I did so.

On the 13th instant I received a copy from Mr. Wyndham of his telegram to your Lordship of the previous day, stating that the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs was telegraphing that evening to M. Coundouriottis to ask him if he had informed the Porte that the Greek troops had been recalled, and if not to do so. In the evening I saw my Greek colleague, and he again made the same excuse that the telegrams he received from Athens came to him in so mutilated a condition that he did not feel justified in acting upon them. I earnestly requested him not to delay any longer in making the notification to the Porte, as until it had been received he could not expect that the Turkish Government would desist from their military and naval preparations against Greece, and the danger of war was then greatly increased, as there was naturally a suspicion on their part that this notification was designedly withheld.

M. Coundouriottis replied that he would look at his telegrams again and inform me on the following morning whether he could act upon them. At one o'clock to-day a note reached me from M. Coundouriottis informing me that he had just had a telegram from M. Delyanni enquiring whether he had received a previous one from

him about the recall of the Greek regular troops, and if he had communicated it to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs. He had consequently at once given orders to his first dragoman to do so officially.

I am free to confess that I cannot quite explain M. Coundouriottis' proceedings in this case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 919.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 228.)
Constantinople, February 14, 1878.

My Lord,

I DID not receive until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 12th instant your Lordship's telegram, sent at 3·10 P.M. on the previous day, informing me that it was absolutely necessary that British ships should go up to Constantinople; that it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to order them up without delay, and that they were confident that the Porte would not commit the imprudence of resorting to force against a friendly Power in order to prevent a measure of precaution which circumstances have rendered indispensable. Your Lordship directed me to lose no time in pressing the Porte to give orders to the forts not to resist the passage of Her Majesty's ships.

I immediately acknowledged the receipt of your Lordship's telegram, as you requested me to do, and sent Mr. Sandison to endeavour to find the Prime Minister, and to inform him of its substance. I also requested Mr. Jocelyn to see Said Pasha, the Minister of Marine, at once, and to beg his Excellency to come to me without delay. Mr. Sandison found Ahmed Vefyk Pasha at the Porte. His Highness expressed the greatest surprise at learning that Her Majesty's ships had been ordered to enter the Dardanelles with or without the consent of the Porte, and declared that under the circumstances, and in order to prevent the immediate occupation of Constantinople by the Russians, the Porte had no other course left to it but to oppose their passage by force. Mr. Sandison felt that he could not receive a communication of so grave a character except from the Minister for Foreign Affairs. He then waited upon Server Pasha, who expressed the same opinion: that it was the duty of the Porte to resist—even by force, if necessary—this breach of the Treaties, but refused, for the present, to state officially and in writing the intention of the Turkish Government to do so.

Mr. Sandison came to me with these answers of the Prime Minister and Server Pasha. I directed him to return immediately to the Porte, and to insist upon a formal and official answer to my request for a firman to enable British ships of war to pass through the Dardanelles. He met Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, who was on his way to the Palace. His Highness informed him that before giving a reply to my application it was absolutely necessary that the Sultan's orders should be taken, and that His Majesty would consult with his Ministers on the subject. I beg to inclose a Memorandum, which Mr. Sandison has drawn up at my request, of his interviews with the Prime Minister and Server Pasha.

After Mr. Jocelyn had left the Embassy to find Said Pasha, I learnt that his Excellency was at his private house. I immediately sent a person in his confidence to request him to call upon me. He replied that he thought that he would be of more use in the matter upon which I desired to consult him by going without delay to the Sultan, and seeing me afterwards.

About 9 o'clock at night Server and Said Pashas called upon me. They stated that the Sultan was greatly alarmed at the communication received from Her Majesty's Government as to the approach of the British fleet to Constantinople. His Majesty was convinced that its appearance in the Bosphorus would lead to the immediate occupation of his capital by the Russian armies, to disasters to his subjects and to himself, and to the gravest danger to his empire. His Majesty feared that the presence of the Russians within the city walls would encourage the Christians to commit acts of violence upon the Mussulmans, which would lead to serious disorders, and perhaps to bloodshed. It was not improbable that disturbances of this nature would be excited by Russian agents with a view to justify, in the eyes of Europe, an occupation of the city.

His Majesty implored me to prevail upon Her Majesty's Government to cancel their orders to the fleet, and thus to spare him the greatest of humiliations, the possession of his capital by a foreign army, and the danger to his throne and person that must inevitably ensue from it.

I replied that it was utterly impossible for me to prevent the detachment of Her Majesty's fleet from entering the Dardanelles. The Admiral had been directed to leave Besika Bay at sunrise, and it was now too late to communicate with him. But even if I could, I had no authority to countermand orders which he had received from England. Moreover, judging from your Lordship's telegram, Her Majesty's Government had come to an irrevocable decision of sending ships up to Constantinople, founded upon considerations which rendered it impossible for me to take any step at variance with it without their express instructions.

Server Pasha then read me a telegram from Musurus Pasha, giving an account of an interview with your Lordship, in which your Lordship is stated to have said that you could not believe that the Porte would oppose a step which was taken in the interests of Turkey. He admitted, therefore, that Her Majesty's Government must have grave reasons for taking the step they had decided upon, and that it was certainly not intended to be hostile to Turkey.

After a most painful discussion, which lasted nearly two hours, and during which every available argument was used, and every possible appeal made to my feelings to induce me to comply with the request of the Sultan, that I should direct the Admiral not to attempt to pass through the Dardanelles, and in case he should have done so, to return to Besika Bay, I consented to ask him not to anchor in the Bosphorus, but to remain at some distance from the capital, as at the Prince's Islands.

Server Pasha thought that if the British fleet were not actually within the Bosphorus, the Russians might then be induced not to enter the city gates, or, if they insisted upon advancing from their present positions, to remain at some distance outside the walls. Thus, possibly, the disastrous consequences apprehended from the actual presence of Russian troops in the midst of the population might be avoided.

I felt no difficulty in complying with his Excellency's request to ask Admiral Hornby to anchor at the Prince's Islands, as, according to his orders, which your Lordship had communicated to me, he is free to do so. Server and Said Pashas then left me, giving me to understand that instructions should be sent to the Commander of the forts at the Dardanelles to present a formal protest to Admiral Hornby against the passage of the Straits by the ships, founded upon the Treaty of Paris, but not to offer any resistance. I accordingly telegraphed to your Lordship to this effect.

About 3 o'clock in the morning, I received a letter from the Prime Minister, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, informing me that the Sultan persevered in his request to Her Majesty's Government to abandon absolutely their intention of sending Her Majesty's ships through the Dardanelles, and called upon me to stop them until a solution of the question had been come to. I replied at once, requesting his Highness to state to His Majesty that it was absolutely impossible for me to stop the approach of the fleet, that the most explicit orders had been given by Her Majesty's Government to the British Admiral to enter the Dardanelles on that very morning, and that nothing that I could say to him would prevent him from obeying them. I therefore earnestly begged his Highness to send, without a moment's delay, such orders to the Commandant at the Dardanelles as would prevent a conflict which might lead to disastrous results.

In the middle of the day Server Pasha again called upon me and handed to me a letter from the Prime Minister, of which I inclose a copy, informing me that the Sultan had telegraphed to the Queen to request most urgently that her fleet should not enter the Bosphorus, and begging me, in the name of His Majesty, to stop its approach until he had received Her Majesty's answer. Server Pasha supported the Sultan's request with all the arguments that he could command. He insisted upon the imminent danger to the Sultan himself, to the dynasty, to the Empire, and to the Christian and Mussulman population of Constantinople, by the entry of Russian troops into the capital. He read to me a further telegram received by the Sultan from the Emperor of Russia, stating that His Imperial Majesty still maintains the same friendly and pacific disposition, but that it was difficult for him to reconcile His Majesty's request that he should not send his troops into Constantinople with the communication that he had received from Her Majesty's Government announcing that the British fleet, notwithstanding the refusal of a Firman, had been ordered into the Bosphorus. If, His Imperial Majesty went on to say, British ships were to enter the Bosphorus, it would be impossible for him not to place a part of his forces temporarily

in Constantinople. The Sultan, His Imperial Majesty added, had too high a feeling of personal dignity not to admit that he could not act otherwise.

Server Pasha maintained that even the temporary occupation of Constantinople by Russian troops would have an incalculable effect upon the whole Mahommedan world, and that the interests of England herself would be most seriously endangered by it. What would the Mussulmans of India say, his Excellency asked, when they learnt that the Russians had entered the capital of Islamism in the very presence of the English fleet, which was unable or unwilling to interfere to prevent this great humiliation inflicted upon all Mahommedans, one which they would never forget nor forgive? At the present time, his Excellency insisted, there was no reason whatever to apprehend any disturbances in the city which would endanger the lives and property of British or any other foreign subjects. The Porte had taken, and were still taking, energetic measures to prevent disorders, and to disarm the population. The entry of the Russian troops would lead to the very danger that Her Majesty's Government appeared to apprehend. It would be the object of Russian agents to cause disturbances in order to afford an argument for the Russian occupation of the city. How could the Turkish Government, in its absolute penury, supply 20,000 or 30,000 Russian troops? They would probably help themselves, pull down the Mussulman houses for firewood, and rob to obtain provisions. The result might easily be anticipated. It would scarcely be possible to prevent a conflict between them and the Mahommedan population, which might spread to the Christians, and lead to a general massacre.

His Excellency observed, in conclusion, that whilst England was pretending to act as the friend of and in the interests of Turkey, she was, by the step she was about to take, proving herself Turkey's greatest enemy, as she was now provoking Russia, unnecessarily, to take a step which might bring about the final ruin of the Turkish Empire.

I endeavoured to calm his Excellency's fears, although not with much success, and to prove to him that it was completely out of my power to countermand orders which the British Admiral had received direct from Her Majesty's Government, and which I was convinced he would consider it his duty to obey at all risks and hazards. Said Pasha joined us during our interview, and I had no difficulty in making him understand that I could not interfere with the Admiral's movements. His Excellency said that he came with authority from the Sultan to make, through me, the following proposal to Her Majesty's Government. His Majesty presumed that one of the reasons which may have induced Her Majesty's Government to send ships to Constantinople was lest the Russians should demand the surrender of the Turkish fleet, and should be able so to block up the entrances to the Bosphorus and Dardanelles as to prevent it from leaving, and the British fleet from approaching the Bosphorus. If such be the case, His Majesty would be willing to send his fleet wherever Her Majesty's Government might think desirable; and if Her Majesty's Government had not sufficient confidence in his officers, he was ready to place his fleet under the command of a British Admiral and to take British officers for his ships. His Majesty further requested me to state to Her Majesty's Government that should he have any reason to believe that the Russians were about to violate the Armistice, or to place his Empire in danger, he would then himself ask for the presence of Her Majesty's fleet at Constantinople. His Majesty again implored me to stop the fleet, in order that the Russians might have no pretext for entering Constantinople.

I could not refuse to send the Sultan's message to your Lordship, and I accordingly telegraphed it; but I begged Server Pasha and Said Pasha to state to His Majesty that, after the decision taken by Her Majesty's Government, it was absolutely useless for me to do so.

Later in the day they returned to inform me that the Sultan, having addressed a telegram to the Emperor of Russia, acquainting him that he had asked the Queen to countermand the approach of the British fleet to Constantinople, had received the following reply, which His Majesty considered very curt and menacing:—"I am always ready to give my assistance to spare human suffering. I will await the result of the request made by your Majesty to the Queen of England." ("Je suis toujours prêt à prêter mon concours pour épargner les malheurs à l'humanité. J'attendrai réponse à la démarche faite auprès de la Reine d'Angleterre par votre Majesté.") Server Pasha pointed out that the Emperor himself appeared to admit, by the tenor of his answer, that the entrance of Russian troops into Constantinople might lead to disasters. The Sultan was, therefore, fully justified in his fears. His Excellency again endeavoured to prevail upon me to prevent the approach of Her Majesty's ships, beseeching me, if I could do nothing more, to ask the Admiral to keep out at sea, and

not to anchor either at the Prince's Islands or in the Bosphorus until an answer were received to my telegrams to your Lordship, or to those which the Porte had sent to Musurus Pasha as to the dangers that would ensue from a Russian occupation of the capital. His Excellency and Said Pasha told me that the Sultan was in the greatest distress, and that he earnestly appealed to my friendship for him not to refuse to keep the fleet away from Constantinople, at any rate for the present. They added that Turkey would never think of resorting to force when England was concerned, and that orders had been sent to the Commandant of the Dardanelles to present a formal protest to Admiral Hornby against the passage of the Dardanelles by English ships of war, based upon the Treaty of 1856, but not to take any other measures.

I told Server and Said Pashas that all I could do was to inform Admiral Hornby of the Sultan's request, but that I must leave it to his judgment to act upon it, as I could not in any way interfere with his orders. I promised to write to him in that sense by one of the vessels attached to the Embassy, which was going to meet him at daybreak on the following morning. I accordingly addressed a despatch to him, of which I beg to inclose a copy, and which I transmitted to him by Captain Hall, of Her Majesty's ship "Flamingo."

I learnt this morning from Admiral Hornby that he had passed through the Straits without encountering any other obstacle than the presentation by the Commandant of the Dardanelles of the Porte's protest against his proceedings. In the evening I received a further letter from the Prime Minister, of which I inclose a copy, requesting me to prevent the further approach of the fleet to Constantinople. Even had I been able to comply with his Highness' request, the state of the weather was such that it would have been almost impossible for me to communicate with Admiral Hornby.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 919.

Mr. Sandison to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Pera, February* 12, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, all that passed to-day at the Porte in regard to the question of the British fleet re-entering the Dardanelles.

Having waited on Vefyk Pasha, his Highness proceeded at once to state that a telegram, which had just been received from Musurus Pasha, apprised the Porte of the decision of Her Majesty's Government to order a portion of the fleet to Constantinople for the protection of British subjects. His Highness took occasion to state that such a step could only lead to the most disastrous consequences as regards the capital itself as well as the population, which was very little under a million of souls. That the Porte having resolved to abide by its engagements towards Russia, he would give orders to the forts of the Dardanelles to open fire upon the British fleet on its entering the Straits, but that I had better see Server Pasha, who, as Foreign Minister, was the proper Minister to deal with this question. I accordingly waited on his Excellency, who showed me Musurus Pasha's telegram, which referred chiefly to the necessity, as pointed out by Lord Derby, of the presence of a portion of the British Fleet at Constantinople for the protection of the interests of the Porte, stating, at the same time, the firm resolution of Her Majesty's Government to order up the fleet to Constantinople, in spite of Musurus Pasha's observations to his Lordship as regards the critical position of the capital and of the Government.

Finding that a passage in the telegram referred also to a recommendation from Lord Derby that the Porte should merely protest, without offering any material resistance to the entrance of the fleet into the Dardanelles, since such resistance would be a hostile act against England, I thought proper to call Server Pasha's serious attention to the Prime Minister's statement as regards opening fire upon the British fleet, and to declare to his Excellency that I declined to convey so serious a communication to your Excellency, unless he was prepared to confirm and repeat it to me formally in his character of Minister for Foreign Affairs, begging him at the same time to give the subject all the consideration it deserved before making the statement in question. It would be highly rash and impolitic, I ventured to add, on the part of the Porte to adopt the course mentioned by the Prime Minister, which, whilst it would

fail to keep the Russians out of Constantinople, would only lead to the probable result of placing Turkey in the painful position of having to deal with two enemies instead of one only.

Your Excellency having approved of the language I had held to Server Pasha with reference to the Prime Minister's declaration, I immediately returned to the Porte, and, in conformity with your instructions, endeavoured to impress on his Highness the serious consequences that would result from the course he contemplated in connection with the entrance of the British fleet into the Dardanelles. Although I found his Highness apparently inflexible on the subject, from considerations which, he declared, left him no other alternative, I cannot say that he gave me the impression of really wishing to carry out the strong measure he had mentioned, especially after his recommending me to see Server Pasha again about it at once, whilst he himself would lay the matter immediately before the Sultan.

Your Excellency knows better all that has taken place since my second visit to the Porte. I would beg to add, however, that though the Turkish Ministers strongly and openly resisted all notion of allowing the British fleet to enter the Dardanelles without resistance, this was due purely to a general feeling of alarm arising from the statement made by Russia to cause, in her turn, a military occupation of Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 919.

Ahmed Vefyk Pasha to Mr. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Le* 12 *Février*, 1878.

LE Gouvernement qui nous ont poussés dans une position acculée en nous persuadant que même l'entrée des troupes Russes ne saurait le forcer à accepter notre demande d'intervention, interviennent aujourd'hui malgré nous après que nous nous sommes engagés pour la paix à tout prix. Sa Majesté insiste pour demander à votre Gouvernement de se désister absolument de son projet d'entrée, et vous demande absolument d'arrêter la marche de la flotte jusqu'à une solution. J'attends une réponse assurante de votre Excellence.

(Signé) AHMED VEFYK.

Inclosure 3 in No. 919.

Ahmed Vefyk Pasha to Mr. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Au Chateau de Yildiz, le* 12 *Février*, 1878.

SA Majesté le Sultan envoie à Sa Majesté la Reine une dépêche pour insister sur l'abandon du projet de faire entrer une flotte dans le Bosphore.

Je viens vous demander de retarder l'approche de la flotte jusqu'à l'arrivée d'une réponse, et je vous réitère, par ordre de Sa Majesté, la prière de faire qu'on attende l'arrivée d'une réponse.

(Signé) AHMED VEFYK.

Inclosure 4 in No. 919.

Mr. Layard to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

Sir, *Constantinople, February* 13, 1878.

THE Sultan has telegraphed to the Queen earnestly requesting Her Majesty to countermand the orders given to you to bring a detachment of her fleet to Constantinople. His Majesty is convinced that as soon as English ships of war appear in the waters of his capital it will be occupied by Russian troops, and His Majesty apprehends that their presence will lead to the most serious disasters to himself and to his Empire. His Majesty is now awaiting an answer to his appeal to the Queen, and has asked me to prevail upon you not to bring the ships under your command to anchor, but to remain at as great a distance as you conveniently can from land until he can

hear whether Her Majesty has complied with his request that you should retire to the Dardanelles

I have informed His Majesty that you are acting under orders received from Her Majesty's Government, and that I have no power to control or interfere with your movements. But as His Majesty is so urgent upon me to make the above representation to you, I am unwilling to refuse to forward his request, leaving it to you to judge whether you can comply with it consistently with the orders you have received from Her Majesty's Government.

In the event of your being able to do so, I should feel much obliged if you would send back the "Flamingo," which would then be at my disposal to convey to you any answer the Sultan may receive from the Queen, or any instructions that may come to me from Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 5 in No. 919.

Ahmed Vefyk Pasha to Mr. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Le 14 Février*, 1878.

SA Majesté a chargé son Ambassadeur d'insister auprès de votre Gouvernement pour faire absolument retirer la flotte hors des Dardanelles, et le Gouvernement Russe promet d'attendre l'issue de cette négociation. Veuillez donc obtenir d'arrêter la flotte où elle se trouve à cette heure. Nous sommes sous une terrible responsabilité vis-à vis de la nation. Partout où les Russes pénétrent, ils sont suivis par une nuée de Bulgares, qui massacrent, déshonorant les Musulmans.

Une quinzaine de télégrammes de la nuit passée nous font un tableau navrant des environs de Prichtina et de Drama. L'entrée des Russes à Constantinople annoncerait des violences, mais contre les Musulmans: les étrangers resteront spectateurs. Les Russes pénétreront dans les maisons sans que leurs officiers les empêchent; ils en exprimeront des regrets, mais des quartiers entiers seront brûlés et pillés.

Votre, &c.
(Signé) AHMED VEFYK.

No. 920.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 229.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch addressed to Mr. Consul-General Fawcett by the British Vice-Consul at Rodosto, reporting the occupation of that town by the Russian forces.

I also inclose the despatches in original which have just reached me relative to the state of affairs in the district of Salonica from Acting Consul Barker, and of which there is no time to take copies before the departure of the messenger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 920.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Consul-General Fawcett.

(Extrait.) *Rodosto, le 8 Février*, 1878.

LE 1er Février les Russes ont occupé notre ville; 800 cavaliers sont entrés, sous le commandement du Prince Albert de Saxe-Altenberg. Le tout s'est passé tranquillement. Depuis lors autres deux Généraux sont arrivés, et le corps d'armée monte à 3,000 hommes de cavalerie et 4 canons traînés par des bœufs. Leurs chevaux sont épuisés, et les officiers cherchent à en acquérir sur les lieux.

Veuillez faire connaître à M. l'Ambassadeur que du côté de Keclian l'avant-garde s'est arrêtée à quatre heures de distance, et que le corps d'armée Russe n'a fait aucun mouvement.

Le capitaine du remorqueur "Leicester," battant pavillon Anglais, a été appelé par les autorités militaires d'ici pour appréter pour des transports de paille et de foin.

Il s'est présenté à ce Consulat pour demander s'il pouvait s'engager.

Je me suis borné à lui faire lire la proclamation de la Reine du 30 Août dernier. Malgré cela le capitaine s'est engagé sous les instances des autorités militaires.

Toutes les communications avec l'intérieur sont cessé, et c'est même avec des grandes difficultés que nous pouvons communiquer avec Constantinople.

Inclosure 2 in No. 920.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, February* 9, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a letter I have just received from Mr. Borrell, Italian Vice-Consul at Volo, and acting as British Vice-Consul during the inevitable absence of Mr. Suter at Larissa. This letter transmits to me a copy of a translation from the Greek of a letter addressed to him from the members of the Provisional Government at Milies, on Mount Pelion, and in which the Proclamation they have issued was contained.

I do not send copies of the original Greek documents, because I am not allowed time by this post to have them copied. I dare say they will appear very shortly in the public prints at Constantinople.

Similar letters were sent to all the Vice-Consuls of all the European Powers at Volo.

Captain Wilson, commanding Her Majesty's iron-clad "Research," proposes to leave to-morrow for Volo, but he will return here immediately, unless his presence there will be required.

I have authentic information that at Volo itself everything is perfectly quiet, and business goes on there as usual.

Yesterday, the Italian Company's steamer took 405 Circassians, engaging to land them at the Dardanelles. The fare paid by the Vali was 37½ piasters per head (good money).

An Ottoman man-of-war left also yesterday for the Dardanelles, with 1,000 sick and wounded, and other soldiers.

The telegram from Cavalla has come: The position remains the same in regard to the Circassians, as no transports had come to take them away. M. Pecchioli declined leaving his post without orders from his superior, the Italian Consul, and therefore the "Research" has not gone to Cavalla; but there is an Italian and a French man-of-war there.

The Vali having heard that the Circassians had brought down with them Christian children, has succeeded in delivering four children; probably more may be found.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 920.

Acting Vice-Consul Borrell to Acting Consul Barker.

Sir, *Volo, February* 8, 1878.

THE insurgents on Mount Pelion are increasing daily; they now amount to about 1,000 men. The Turkish military authorities have no sufficient forces to attack them, so that they quietly organize their Provisional Government.

They keep strict order in the villages, and pay in ready cash for whatever they require. Inclosed copy of a letter of the Provisional Government addressed to this British Vice-Consulate, accompanying a Proclamation to their fellow countrymen, and a translation of another letter which they addressed to the members of the Hellenic Government.

The Hellenic regular troops are deserting, and cross the frontiers. Some engagements took place between the insurgents and the Turks near Armyro and Domoko; but we have no positive particulars about them.

The insurrection is spreading all along the frontiers.

Two Turkish steamers have just arrived from Cavalla, and are now landing about 3,000 regular troops.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. W. BORRELL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 920.

Letter addressed by the Insurgents on Mount Pelion to the Ministers at Athens, inclosed in their Letter to the British Vice-Consul at Volo.

(Traduction.)

M. le Président, *St. Georges, le* 23 *Janvier*, 1878 (v. s.).

NOTRE Province ne pouvant plus supporter l'oppression indescriptible, les attentats contre notre vie, notre honneur, et notre propriété, et considérant que la tranquillité dans laquelle nous sommes restés jusqu'à présent a été mal interprétée, cette Province soulevée comme un seul homme, a saisi les armes, déclarant la liberté, et son union avec sa mère la Grèce, sous le sceptre de Sa Majesté le Roi des Hellènes, Georges 1er.

Nous Soussignés, choisi membres du Gouvernement Provisoire, au nom de tous les représentants de la Province, qui nous ont élus, et de nos compatriotes, nous nous voyons obligés de recourir, et d'implorer de notre chère mère la Grèce, tout secours possible, sans aucun réserve, pour l'accomplissement des aspirations séculaires de l'Hellénisme, car abandonnés à nos propres forces, lesquelles quoique très ardentes moralement, sont faibles matériellement, nous souffririons les infortunes des malheureux Bulgares de la part de nos despotes sanguinaires, qui considèrent le cri d'indignation d'une nation comme un crime devant être puni par son extermination.

Avec la conviction que notre présente trouvera écho dans le cœur de tous les Grecs depuis le plus petit citoyen jusqu'au Chef Suprême, nous, &c.

Le Gouvernement Provisoire du Pelion,
(Signé) Z. D. BASDEKIS.
K. YAREFIS.
EVANGHELOS STAMOULOS.
ARGHIRIS BOYADJIS.
K. SAKELARIDHIS.
K. CHODJAMANIS.

Inclosure 5 in No. 920.

Proclamation.

(Traduction.)

Au nom des Habitants de la Province.

Compatriotes!

L'HEURE de la délivrance si ardemment désirée et attendue a sonnée!

Enflammés par le cri de la liberté, lévez-vous, et accourez sous les drapeaux de la Croix.

Les souffrances que nous supportons depuis si longtemps sont si bien connues, que notre grande résolution n'exige aucune justification.

Notre farouche conquérant nous a toujours traités comme des esclaves, parce que l'égalité est incompatible avec ses principes et ses traditions: c'est pour cela que les Hatti-Humayouns réitérés et les soi-disant privilèges que l'Europe Chrétienne, par compassion pour nous, l'a forcé de nous accorder, ne sont que simple duperie.

Nous sommes taxés comme ne l'est peut-être pas aucun autre peuple, le poids des impôts si lourd à supporter, a augmenté depuis quelques années, par des impôts additionnels, et doubles, par des contributions prétendues volontaires, et par une foule de poursuites, et autres oppressions.

Malgré que nous sommes considérés membres de la famille Européenne, notre état ne diffère en rien de celui des peuples sauvages.

Les moyens de communication, et tout ce qui contribue au bonheur et au progrès des peuples, nous est entièrement inconnu.

L'instruction publique n'existe que là seulement où elle est maintenue par les ressources et les secours des particuliers.

La sécurité de la vie, de l'honneur, et de la propriété est problématique, la justice est accordée aux puissants, ou au plus offrant.

Il est temps qu'un terme soit mis à cet état de choses. Tous autour de nous—les Monténégrins, les Serbes, les Bulgares, et les Roumains ayant secoué le joug, s'acheminent vers leur constitution nationale.

Il ne nous est plus permis d'hésiter, pas même pour un moment. Si pendant cette tourmente nous restions seuls inactifs quel serait notre avenir? Ce qui pesait jusqu'à présent sur tous nos frères, jadis esclaves comme nous, pèsera dorénavant sur nous seuls, et nos provinces malheureuses deviendront le refuge des Turcs expulsés des autres provinces.

Que deviendrait alors l'honneur de nos épouses et de nos enfants? où serait la sécurité de notre vie et de nos biens?

Compatriotes! Prenez les armes avec courage, entourez vos chefs, et rangez vous sous les drapeaux de la liberté et de la patrie!

La lutte que nous entreprenons est grande et sacrée. Le Dieu de nos pères, Protecteur des opprimés, ne nous abandonnera pas. Implorons Son secours, ainsi que celui des puissants de la terre, qui ont déjà nettement déclaré, et dans le Memorandum de Berlin, et dans la dernière Conférence, que les peuples sous la domination Turque sont justifiés de régler, suivant leur volonté, leur état vis-à-vis de la Turquie.

Que notre mot d'ordre soit la délivrance de ce pays, teints par le sang de nos pères de la domination Ottomane, et l'union en un état avec notre commune patrie la Grèce. Soutenons notre lutte sur cette haute dévise, et ne l'abaissons jamais dans la carrière des cruautés et des vengeances, car notre lutte personifie la civilisation et le progrès.

Respectons la vie, l'honneur et les biens de nos compatriotes sans distinction de nationalité ou de religion tout autant que ceux-ci ne s'opposeront pas contre nous par les armes.

Montrons au monde civilisé que nous sommes un peuple digne de sa protection, et de ses sympathies, afin que nous arrivions au but auquel la Divine Providence nous destine.

Milies, le 21 *Janvier*, 1878 (v. s.).

Suivent les signatures comme dans la lettre qui suit:—

M. le Consul, *Village St. Georges, le* 23 *Janvier*, 1878 (v.s.).

Nous Soussignés, élus par les plénipotentiaires de tous les villages de notre Province, membres de son Gouvernement Provisoire, avons l'honneur de vous soumettre une copie de notre proclamation à nos compatriotes.

Nous soussignés avec respect,

(Signé) Z. D. BASDEKIS.
K. GIAREFIS.
EVANGHELOS STAMOULOS.
ZISSIS KITTLIS.
ARGHIRIS BOYADJIS.
G. NICOLAO.
K. SAKELARIDHIS.
K. HODJAMANIS.

Inclosure 6 in No. 920.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, February* 11, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith inclosed, for your Excellency's information, a copy of some extracts and notes relating to the insurrectionary movement in Thessaly, which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, by Turkish overland mail.

At the same time, Mr. Suter says:—"Although passing events naturally are creating some agitation at Larissa, public tranquillity prevails, nor do I see any reason to apprehend that it is likely to be disturbed.

By the return of the "Research," in a few days we shall have more precise information.

Mr. Longworth was at Carditza on the 5th instant, and about to start for Agrapha.

The Servians have declared to the Director of the railway at Mitrovitza, which is the limit of this line, that it is not their intention to interrupt or interfere in any way with its working; and they have retired to some distance from the line. The Director has telegraphed this to Cooper Effendi, the Imperial Commissioner here, Mr. Cooper.

It would seem (as reported by some persons who have come down from them) that the Servians do not intend to advance farther south than to the boundaries of what they consider to be Old Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 7 in No. 920.

Extracts and Notes referring to the Insurrection in Thessaly, sent by Mr. Vice-Consul Suter.

(Extracts.) *Volo, January 30, 1878.*

I THINK I told you that fighting was going on between an armed band of insurgents and the soldiers at a monastery above Macrinitza; this continued till Saturday, when the band, after killing thirty-two and wounding a good many who were brought in here, got away to Puree (village near Zaghera), not a man of them having been hit by the inferior guns of the soldiers. After they left the Turks set fire to the monastery, burnt the interior of the church, and destroyed everything they could. One monk, who was unable to escape, would have been killed, had not an Albanian, with whom I spoke to-day, rescued him. This band is now in the neighbourhood of Zingarada (a village of Volo).

Yesterday a band of insurgents numbering 500 was seen at or near Miliess, which was brought over by a steamer.

A sailing vessel with another band on board put back to Skopelo, as it saw the Turkish cutter cruising about.

Three bands of insurrectionists also appeared yesterday in the vicinity of Armyro, consisting, it is said, of upwards of 1,000 men, with three Krupp guns; this morning 150 Mustahfiz, who came from Larissa, were dispatched down there, and fighting has been going on all day; the sound of the guns and rifles could be distinctly heard here, the air being very clear.

The panic which there is and has been in this place is indescribable; people have been going away in boats, or anything they could get, and a few families which still remain are, I hear, preparing to go by to-morrow's steamers.

31st January.—I have just heard that 1,500 Circassians are expected here. M. Marichich, the Austrian Vice-Consul, I am told, sent to the "Mirulai" (Colonel) to know if it was correct, and received confirmation.

Another band of insurgents, it is said 400 men, landed at Calanera, at Volo, on the evening of the 30th instant.

News has come also from Armyro that things have gone badly with the Turks, and help has been sent for from here; not much could be given, but the ironclad went off in the night with all the men who could be hastily collected; the report is that the soldiers are surrounded, but the insurgents have promised them quarter if they will lay down their arms; every hour brings fresh tidings, and nobody seems to know what to do.

Notes (from Larissa).

It is said that Hischomachos, a Greek officer of the rank of colonel, has marched out from Greece towards Agrapha with 600 men, on the 1st instant, and that General Soucho left Lamia for Thessaly on the 3rd instant, bringing regular and irregular troops, about 1,000 men, well equipped and armed, and having several Krupp guns, and that the construction completed of a carriage road from Lamia to Fourka is due to this officer's energy.

A party of journeymen shoemakers at Larissa, about fifteen, being apprised that some insurgents were to be found at the village of Damush, six hours distant from here, left last night to join them, but were disappointed, for the party had already gone elsewhere, and they came back here. We know of a leader of this town who is ready

to start to join the insurrectionary parties, and who has under him between forty and fifty men.

During the last week many volunteers, composed chiefly of Greek cart-drivers, have gone hence to meet the insurgents, and others only await a favourable opportunity to follow the example.

The report is that the inhabitants of the villages of Volo, with few exceptions, have risen, but we do not know who are their leaders. They say, however, that among these is a certain Chami, or Cham, who many years ago was chief of a brigand band of some note in Thessaly. He surrendered and was pardoned, and after living some time at Volo, returned to the Island of Skopelo.

No. 921.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 230.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 15, 1878.*

LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS incloses in his despatch to your Lordship of the 22nd ultimo, published in No. 3 (1878) of the "Correspondence on the Affairs of Turkey" presented to Parliament, a copy of the reply of Prince Gortchakow to your Lordship's suggestion that a Proclamation should be issued guaranteeing the lives and property of the Turkish population now flying before the Russian forces.

Prince Gortchakow considers that such a step would be superfluous, as at the very beginning of the war the Commander-in-chief of the Imperial army of the Danube solemnly made known to the inhabitants of Bulgaria the sentiments of humanity which His Majesty the Emperor has expressly ordered him to be guided by in the conduct of the war, by securing to the peaceful population, without distinction of race and religion, the friendly protection of the military authorities.

I may observe, with reference to this statement of Prince Gortchakow's:—

1. That the Proclamation issued in the Emperor's name at the commencement of the war was calculated in its tone to cause the greatest alarm to the Mussulman population, which was subsequently more than justified by the cruel proceedings, if not of the Russians, at least of the Bulgarians under their protection and apparently with their sanction; and 2ndly, that the Proclamation published on the banks of the Danube could not have been known to the Mahommedans to the south of the Balkans, who only learnt from the unfortunate fugitives the shocking outrages and massacres committed upon the defenceless Mussulman populations by the Bulgarians and Cossacks. It is not surprising that under these circumstances they should have fled in terror before the advancing Russian armies, and that the result has been an amount of suffering, misery, and bloodshed, and a devastation of which no war hitherto waged by a civilized nation can furnish an example. We must go back for a parallel to it to those invasions of savage races which desolated Eastern Europe in the dark ages.

The general exodus of the Mussulman population continues; and I am assured, although as yet I cannot answer for the accuracy of my information, that the outrages and massacres upon the Mussulmans also continues as the Russians, Bulgarians, and Servians advance.

Prince Gortchakow further states, in his reply to Lord Augustus Loftus' note, that "quite recently, by bombarding open towns like Eupatoria and Theodosia, Hobart Pasha has given additional proof of how the Turks wage war." I think that it is my duty to notice this statement, as I have never failed (as I have more than once informed your Lordship) to impress upon Turkish Ministers that to injure unnecessarily private property and to bombard open places are acts contrary to the practice of civilised nations. I must do the Turks the justice to say that, notwithstanding the great provocation given to them by the Russians in wantonly destroying Turkish trading-ships, and in other ways, they have hitherto strictly abstained from retaliation. The recent expedition to which Prince Gortchakow alludes was not commanded by Hobart Pasha, but by Captain Manthorpe, who, however, received his instructions from Hobart Pasha. I have thought it right to ask Hobart Pasha what those instructions were, as he has frequently stated to me that it was his intention not to injure private property or to fire upon open towns unless it was absolutely necessary to do so. He informs me that his instructions to Captain Manthorpe were strictly in this sense, and that when that officer was directed to cruize along the Russian coast he was ordered not to open fire upon any town which did not first fire upon his ships.

Captain Manthorpe states, in the most distinct terms, that fire was opened upon him first both at Eupatoria and Theodosia, and that he returned it, but without causing anything like the damage to either of those towns that he might have done had he thought proper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 922.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 231.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 15, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna and from the British Consular Agent at Panderma on the subject of the refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 922.

Consul T. F. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Smyrna, February 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, during the past and present weeks, Mussulman fugitives from Roumelia have arrived here in a state of great distress, and in numbers so overwhelming as to baffle all efforts to afford them adequate relief; 19,150 came in steamers from Dedeagatch, and from Constantinople the arrival of 7,000 others is reported. Among the immigrants are between 5,000 and 6,000 Circassians, and these are being transferred by railway to Magnesia, Aidos, and other towns of the interior, in batches of from 200 to 1,000, and as speedily as the means of transport will allow. A large portion of the others are lodged and boarded in Turkish houses, and the remainder (for the most part old and infirm men and women, widows, and orphans) in barracks, hospitals, and other Government buildings. The general condition of these unfortunate beings is one of extreme destitution and starvation; and although much has been done to assuage their sufferings, the charitable exertions in their favour of Turks and Christians have, through the force of circumstances, fallen sadly short of all the requirements of the occasion. It has been found impossible to furnish more than a comparatively small portion of the refugees with any other kind of food than bread, and this they receive regularly from the municipal or provincial authorities, while with money subscribed by the European community blankets and articles of clothing are purchased for their use. The funds contributed by the foreign community here, for the relief of the above refugees, amounts to about 500*l.*, a sum wholly inadequate for the purpose for which it was destined.

Under these circumstances, and notwithstanding appeals to a contrary effect from the Governor-General of the province, it is to be regretted that the authorities of the capital persist in forwarding refugees of this description to Smyrna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 922.

Consular-Agent Michalopoulo to Consul-General Fawcett.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Panderma, February 8, 1878.*

SINCE my report of the 26th ultimo, 160 Turkish soldiers arrived here on the 29th ultimo, by the British steamer "Sarah Smart."

Four days afterwards fifty-seven of these soldiers were sent to Artaki to preserve order in that district, which is full of Circassians and other refugees.

It is estimated that more than 12,000 persons have passed through this place.

About 4,500 have gone to the neighbouring villages, and the remainder stay here for want of means of conveyance.

The Pasha of Ballikesser has been here for the last nine days, and has been unable to find means to send them away.

No horses remain, the greater part of them having been stolen by the Circassians, and if any horse is found in possession of a Christian, it is forcibly taken from him, the owner receiving scarcely any payment for it.

I have also to report that the Circassians are constantly selling various valuables, such as silver ornaments, taken from Bulgarian churches and houses, clothes and cloth of Bulgarian manufacture; I have myself witnessed the fact. I have even seen in their possession a woman's fur polisse and linen stained all over with blood.

The peasantry are in great dread when they are told by those who are removing their families inland, that bye-and-bye they would come here and "give a good lesson to the Ghiaours;" so much hatred do they show towards the Christians, and such dread they have inspired, that the Christians were considering whether they ought not to remove hence with their families.

However, I have not failed to urge them not to flee, and up to the present, none of them have gone away.

According to calculations made, the number of refugees from different parts of Roumelia in the district of Artalsi, and including Panderma, exceeds 30,000.

At first, everybody here thought that the Circassians who had arrived were indigent; however, from what one sees and hears, the majority of them are in possession of plenty of money, besides the valuables they are continually selling.

They avow that they have plundered the churches and houses of the Bulgarians.

They have brought with them an epidemic—the scarlet fever—and from four to five deaths and more occur every day. It appears likely that this disease will spread largely amongst the unfortunate peasantry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. MICHALOPOULO.

No. 923.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 232.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 15, 1858.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 172 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Commander Hamond, of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," reporting that he has visited Varna, and found the town perfectly quiet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 923.

Commander Hamond to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *"Torch," Varna, February 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that owing to the weather I was detained at the mouth of the Bosphorus until the morning of the 8th. On the 9th, being unable to gain this port, I anchored in Baljik Bay. There were 1,000 Cossacks in the town, under the command of a General of Brigade (Yanoff). He offered every civility.

The next morning anchored in Varna Bay, found that perfect tranquillity existed in the town, shops all open, and business going on; no exodus of fugitives taking place; in fact, an order had been received by the local authorities to send them out of the town and back to their villages. Mr. Reade, the British Consul, was under no apprehension of disturbances arising. Under these circumstances, I intend to proceed to Bourgas Bay, calling at the intervening ports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICH. H. HAMOND.

No. 924.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 234.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch received this morning from Mr. Dussi, the British Vice-Consul at Rodosto, giving an account of the advance and concentration of Russian troops at that place and in the neighbourhood. Your Lordship will perceive, from Mr. Dussi's statement, that the Russians continue to disarm the Mahommedans, and to hand over their arms to the Christians, who plunder and destroy Mussulman villages and property.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 924.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Mr. Layard.

Excellence, *Rodosto, le* 13 *Février*, 1878.

J'AI déjà eu l'avantage de vous informer que l'avant-garde Russe, arrivée à quatres heures de distance de Kinian, s'était retirée nouvellement à Ozoun-Kiepru. De là, toute la troupe, excepté 500 hommes, s'était avancée sur Rodosto et ses environs.

Hier m'est arrivé, après bien de difficultés, un courrier spécial qui m'a apporté une lettre du 6 courant.

Par celle-ci on m'informe qu'il était descendu à Ozoun-Kiepru 2,500 hommes qui devaient marcher sur Penstasi, port de mer du district de Gallipoli, à dix heures de cette localité.

En outre, le 5 courant, il était arrivé une quantité de troupes à Ozoun-Kiepru, sous le commandement du Prince Camaroff, et sept canons de gros calibre. L'on attendait beaucoup de troupes qui arrivaient déjà et que l'on installait dans les hans, mosquées et maisons. Ces troupes étaient, dit-on, destinées à marcher sur Gallipoli.

Un télégramme de Gallipoli expédié à Kieselan annonçait qu'un corps de 6,000 hommes de troupes Ottomanes allait être envoyé pour la défense de cette localité.

Ici on fait une grande concentration de troupes en ville et dans les environs. Il en arrive journellement et on ne peut en préciser le nombre. Il y a neuf canons Krupp.

Héraclée et Silivrie sont occupées par les Russes. Chaque jour il passe des troupes qui se concentrent à Tchataldja. On dit que le Grand Duc Nicolas a fait son quartier-général entre Silivrie et Tchataldja.

Les Russes ont désarmé tous les Musulmans et ont laissé les armes aux villageois Chrétiens. Ceux-ci en profitent, et ne font que piller et brûler les villages Turcs. Je suis aussi une des victimes de leurs exploits. Ils m'ont enlevé tout mon gros bétail.

Deux des coupables reconnus et arrêtés ont été mis en liberté par le Gouvernement Provisoire, sans doute à cause de ma qualité de Vice-Consul Britannique.

Sans autre j'ai l'honneur, &c.
(Signé) M. DUSSI.

No. 925.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 235.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 15, 1878.

IN accordance with the provisions of the Armistice, the Turkish troops which were withdrawn from the first line of defence of this city have been concentrated upon the second, extending from Kutchuk Tchekmedji, on the Marmora, to Ak Bounon, on the Euxine; and Captain Trotter, R.E., who has been examining the position of the army, reports it to be strongly entrenched, with 50,000 men, and 130 guns.

Moukhtar Pasha, who is in command, appears confident of being able to hold a very superior force of the enemy in check, even in this comparatively inferior position. Under these circumstances, I should be glad to be informed whether, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it would be more advisable for the Porte to persist in endeavouring to repel a further advance of the enemy upon the capital, or, regarding such a measure as fruitless, to admit the Russian forces on friendly terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 926.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 97.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 11, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me this morning that the Greek troops had all returned to Greek territory.

Photiades Bey, the Turkish Minister, whom I saw later in the day, said that the Turkish Consul at Lamia had informed him that all the Greek troops would, by this evening, have quitted Turkish territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 927.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 98.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 11, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 97 of this date, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that, when M. Delyanni informed me that the Greek troops had all returned to Greek territory, he added that no desertions, in consequence of the order to return, as had been stated in some newspapers, had taken place, and that the troops had at once obeyed the orders of their General.

I replied that this reflected the highest credit upon the Greek army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 928.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 99. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 11, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. de Sabouroff, the Russian Minister at this Court, called upon me this morning and talked to me upon the state of affairs in Greece. He said that reforms in the Hellenic provinces of Turkey would not be sufficient to satisfy the Greeks, and that in his own personal opinion he thought that some rectification of their line of frontier would be advisable, and that the Porte, with a view of avoiding further troubles, and which he foresaw were sure to arise from Greece if they were not conjured, would be wise in acquiescing in a rectification of the Greek frontier.

He said that it was well known that the insurrection in Herzegovina had been incited by the Montenegrins, and that if the Porte had been wise in time and had conceded some territory to Montenegro, the insurrection in Herzegovina would have been stopped, and that he therefore thought the Porte should, in order to avoid insurrections being fomented by Greece, cede to her some territory, with a view of promoting tranquillity ("dans un but d'apaisement").

I asked his Excellency what he would propose should be ceded to Greece. M. de Sabouroff said that some time ago a dispute had arisen between the Porte and Greece as to a portion of the Agrapha district, that both Turkey and Greece claimed

it, and that now there was a dispute about the Gulf of Arta, and that, in his private opinion, if the Agrapha district and the Gulf of Arta were ceded to Greece, such a concession would content and tranquillize the Greeks.

I asked him what his opinion was with regard to Crete. M. de Sabouroff replied that that was a question which he thought must be approached with much care, as it might arouse susceptibilities in England, and might possibly be considered as one affecting British interests, but that on the whole he thought it might be well to give that island to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 929.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 100. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 12, 1878.*

M. DE SABOUROFF having, as I have had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 99, Confidential, of yesterday's date, mentioned to me that he thought it might be advisable that the Porte should cede certain territory near Agrapha to Greece, respecting which there had been a dispute, I have referred to the archives of Her Majesty's Legation, and I find in despatches, as marked in the margin,* addressed by Mr. Erskine to Earl Granville, reports as to a dispute between the Porte and the Greek Government respecting the erection of barracks by the Ottoman Government near Agrapha, at a point on the frontier claimed by Greece. The amount of territory in dispute appears to have consisted of only a few acres.

With regard to this dispute, which I presume is the one alluded to by M. de Sabouroff, who was at that time Russian Minister here, he was instructed to inform the Greek Government that the Russian Government would have no objection, if a Mixed Commission was appointed, to join British and French Commissioners in arbitrating between Greece and Turkey, should such a course become necessary. The offer was, however, civilly declined by the Hellenic Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 930.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 102.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 12, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Delyanni, the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs, is telegraphing this evening to M. Comdouriotti, the Greek Representative at Constantinople, to ask him if he has informed the Turkish Government that the Greek troops have been recalled, and if not, to do so.

His Excellency said that he would consult his colleague as to the measure to be adopted with respect to the irregular armed bands, and that he would let me know the result.

M. Tissot, the French Minister, was kind enough to accompany me to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and to support me in urging the Hellenic Government to take steps with reference to the irregular bands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

---

* Mr. Erskine to Earl Granville, No. 223, July 27; No. 252, August 10; No. 268, September 14; No. 293, October 15; No. 294, October 19; No. 312, November 19; No. 322, December 4; 1870.

No. 931.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 103.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 13, 1878.*

ON the receipt yesterday of your Lordship's telegrams of the 11th instant, as to the withdrawal of the Greek troops from Turkish territory, and as to the departure from Greece of irregular armed bands, and instructing me to ask the Greek Government if it will give assurances as required by the Porte on these points, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that before acting upon your Lordship's instructions I called upon the French Minister and communicated to him the substance of your Lordship's telegrams, and asked him whether he would accompany me to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and assist me in impressing upon M. Delyanni the advisability of informing the Porte of the withdrawal of the Greek troops from Turkish territory, and of taking steps to prevent the incursions of armed bands from Greece into Turkey.

M. Tissot said he had no instructions himself, but that, nevertheless, he would most willingly comply with my request, and reminded me that he had already spoken to M. Delyanni on the subject of the irregular bands.

M. Delyanni received us at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and I communicated to him the substance of your Lordship's telegrams, and his Excellency made a note of my communication.

The troops having been withdrawn, we pointed out to M. Delyanni the advisability of now notifying the fact to the Porte. His Excellency replied that he had, on the 26th (Gregorian) / 7th January, telegraphed to M. Condouriotti, the Greek Minister at Constantinople, to inform him that the troops had been ordered to withdraw from Turkish territory, that he did not know whether he had communicated this to the Porte, but that he would telegraph and inquire, and instruct him, if he had not already communicated on this subject to the Porte, to do so. Having disposed of this part of the question at issue, we asked him whether the Government could not take steps to prevent the irregular bands from leaving Greece; we pointed out to him that these bands were compromising the safety of his country, and urged him to take steps to conjure a danger which might be brought upon Greece by their continued departure for Turkish territory. M. Tissot said that he had information of the departure of a Greek steamer, the "Epta Mysos," from the Piræus on the night of the 11th, and suggested that it would be easy for the Government to prevent the departure of bands by sea.

M. Delyanni replied that it was a very difficult question, but that he would consult his colleagues and lay the matter before the King. He said that it was very difficult to prevent bands leaving Greece, especially by land, as the troops were now concentrated on the east and west of continental Greece, and the rest of the frontier was unguarded. To this M. Tissot replied that the remedy was simple, and that all the Greek Government had to do was to alter the position of the troops and to extend them along the frontier line.

On taking leave of M. Delyanni, I begged him to let me know what answer I could return to your Lordship as to the assurances required by the Porte; and I expressed to him the opinion that I felt certain that your Lordship in giving me the instructions, the nature of which I had conveyed to him, had been animated by a friendly feeling towards Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 932.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 104.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 13, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter from Mr. Wood, Her Majesty's Consul at Patras, as to the conveyance of arms and ammunition by the Greek steamers "Iris" and "Panhellenion," apparently with a view of fostering insurrection in Turkish territory.

I had already heard of the attempt of the "Panhellenion" to land men and arms in Crete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 932.

Consul Wood to Mr. Wyndham.

(Private.)
My dear Mr. Wyndham, *Patras, February* 11, 1877.

THE Greek Steam Navigation Company's steamer "Iris" arrived yesterday from the Piræus and Astacco; she there landed 600 muskets, ammunition and biscuit for the use of the insurgents in the vicinity of Carnvassera, and then came on here with arms, ammunition, and military clothing, &c. It was given out that she had brought two large Kropp guns to be placed at the castles of Rhion, but this was not true.

Some muskets have been issued here to the country people, and many volunteers have been enrolled. Uniforms for them are arrived; and they exercise constantly.

The "Iris" will take away all the coal she can carry.

This looks very much as if the Greek Government intends forwarding the insurrection in Epirus and Thessaly, and that the withdrawal of the troops to Lamia is only a feint.

I am told that the Greek steamer "Panhellenion" was in Crete trying to land 11,000 muskets and ammunition, when she was surprised by a Turkish steam corvette and had to escape, after landing only 1,000 muskets, and she would have been captured had not night intervened.

It is to be feared that the Turks will eventually resort to these measures.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS WOOD.

No. 933.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 106.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 13, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegrams of the 11th instant, and to the telegram which I addressed to your Lordship yesterday, I have the honour to report that the Minister for Foreign Affairs assured me this afternoon that the Ministers of the Interior, Justice, and Marine will use all legal means to prevent irregular armed bands leaving Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 934.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 107.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 13, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 103 of to-day's date, in which I reported to your Lordship that M. Delyanni had informed me that he would consult his colleagues as to preventing the departure of armed bands from Greece, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that his Excellency called upon me this afternoon and told me that he had laid the matter before a council of Ministers, and that the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Justice, and the Minister of Marine, will employ all legal means in their power to prevent the departure of armed bands, and that the Captain of the Port of the Piræus had received orders not to allow armed bands to leave that port by sea, and that the local authorities in the provinces bordering upon Turkey had likewise received orders to use their best efforts to prevent any bands crossing the frontiers.

I thanked his Excellency for his communication, and told him that I would at

once bring it to your Lordship's knowledge, and to that of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 935.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 108.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 13, 1878.

THE Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs called upon me to-day, and I availed myself of his visit to mention to him that I had received a telegraphic despatch in the morning from your Lordship informing me that the Greek Chargé d'Affaires had communicated to you a telegram from his Government reporting the emigration of the inhabitants of Christian villages in Thessaly after the departure of the Greek troops, and the abandonment of all their possessions to the Circassians and Ghegians. I also told M. Delyanni that your Lordship had instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to bring this statement to the knowledge of the Porte, and to express the earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that steps may be taken to repress disorder in the Hellenic provinces of Turkey. M. Delyanni begged me to express his best thanks to your Lordship for having taken this step.

M. Delyanni then told me that General Soutzo had received information that three or four millers had been murdered by Ghegbes in the villages of Similli and Mattaranga, and that when the Greek troops evacuated the village of Arkani a priest was decapitated, whereupon the other inhabitants fled into Greece.

These reports naturally cause much anxiety in this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 936.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 109.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 14, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Photiades Bey, the Turkish Minister, informed me to-day that he was addressing a note to the Greek Government demanding the liberation of forty-three Albanian soldiers who had been taken prisoners in a fort at Surpi, in Thessaly, which had been captured by the troops under the orders of General Soutzo.

Photiades Bey told me that these men were imprisoned at Chalcis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 937.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 110.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 14, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday's date, *en clair*, repeating a telegram from Mr. Layard, the concluding passage of which states that the Governor of Prevesa is expecting the Greeks to cross the frontiers in that direction, and Sir Charles Sobright, Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu, having telegraphed to me to-day to the effect that the frontiers of Albania were occupied by Greek troops, and that the troops quartered at Corfu had started for the front, I called upon M. Delyanni and told him of the reports which had reached me, and which I said caused me some uneasiness, and I expressed the hope that Greek troops were not going to invade Epirus, as they had Thessaly.

M. Delyanni assured me positively that the Greek Government had no intention of invading Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 938.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 9. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, February 18, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of two Reports received this morning from Santa Maura, from which it appears that fighting has commenced on the Greco-Albanian frontier, at the northern extremity of the Gulf of Arta.

2. The scene of hostilities was the Forest of Radovizi, which, on Turkish territory, stretches from the Greek frontier at the village of Anino, and along the precipitous spurs of the Pindus, to the Arachthus—a broad and rapid stream, only passable in ordinary seasons at certain fords, and which, if only guarded with ordinary vigilance, will render it impossible for the invaders to gain the interior of the country between Arta and Janina.

The Forest of Radovizi has an extent of over twenty square miles, and during the spring, summer, and autumn months affords rich pasture for numerous flocks and herds, but does not contain a single village, house, or hold, beyond the wigwams of the herdsmen and shepherds—rude conical structures formed of the boughs of trees, and thatched with reeds. A choicer field could nowhere be found for Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians whereon to display their peculiar fighting tactics. These worthies will, I doubt not, render a good account of the volunteers, who, should the narrow stretch of frontier between the mountains and the head of the Gulf of Arta be in the meantime occupied by Turkish troops, will at once find themselves placed between two fires.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 938.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Santa Maura, February 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the "Patriotic Committee" at this place telegraphed on Monday last, 11th instant, to the delegates alluded to in my preceding Reports, urging immediate action in Epirus. A rumour was spread on the following day to the effect that, on the night between the 11th and 12th instant, bands of insurgents had entered into Epirus; that they were joined by the inhabitants of the district through which they passed, and that the insurrection in Epirus was therefore an accomplished fact. In the absence, however, of more reliable and impartial news,—and, I may add, in the absence of any telegram from the frontier stations, I gave no credence to this rumour. In fact, day after day passed without bringing any news whatever from that quarter until yesterday, when the President of the Committee at this place published a telegram from one of the delegates, dated from Floriates (a village on the Greek frontier), 14th instant, 5 P.M., announcing that the insurrection had that day broken out at Paleo Panajia, a village situated on the other side of the border, in the direction of Anino, six hours distant from Arta, and that an engagement between the Turkish troops and the insurgents was still going on. From the brevity of the telegram, it was impossible to make out whether by "insurrection" the sender meant a rising of the rayahs, or, what was more than probable, a raid of the insurrectionary bands from Greece, of whom upwards of 350 men were for days assembled along the frontier. At any rate, it left no doubt that a collision between Turks and Christians had occurred at the locality named. Other reports, confirming the above, are abroad to-day, but I refrain from adding anything further as to details until I ascertain, on impartial authority, the particulars relative to this affair.

This episode, according to the Committees, has at last inaugurated the "Epirus question," but it is doubtful as yet how far the co-operation of the Epirotes themselves may be secured, so long as the movement is not supported by the troops of the Hellenic Government. The sad consequences of the insurrection of 1854 are still fresh in the memory of the Epirotes.

2. Since writing the above, I have received intelligence from Prevesa, stating that bands of insurgents did indeed make a raid from Greece, somewhere near Anino, on the 14th instant, when a pitched battle between them and the Turkish irregulars occurred. Other particulars as to numbers and result are still wanting, but it is said that a battalion of "Evsones" took part in the fight.

3. No troops have as yet arrived at Prevesa, but it is stated on good authority that five battalions are expected from Constantinople, as also 500 Bashi-Bazouks. Two battalions from Janina are on their way to reinforce the garrison of Arta, at present consisting of about 6,000, chiefly irregulars.

Abdi Pasha has come down to Arta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ONOFRIO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 938.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Santa Maura, February 17, 1878.*

REFERRING to my despatch of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that, according to a despatch from the Governor of Prevesa to my Turkish colleague at this place, relative to the affair at Paleo Panagia, "the band of the Greek insurgents was met by a detachment of Turkish irregulars," and repulsed, after some hard fighting, the Greeks leaving many killed behind them, amongst whom the notorious Demetrio Scalzojanni. A quantity of arms and ammunition fell into the hands of the Turks, as also, among other things, many Greek military "kepis."

No other particulars are given in the Governor's despatch, but it appears that fighting was resumed yesterday morning, as passengers who arrived from Arta reported to the authorities at Prevesa that on their way to Salaora in the forenoon the heard the booming of artillery in the direction of Arta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ONOFRIO.

No. 939.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received February 22.)

(Secret.)
My Lord, *Admiralty, February 22, 1878.*

WITH reference to your letter of 20th instant, and to my reply of 21st instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Earl of Derby, copies of the telegram which, in accordance with subsequent instructions from Her Majesty Government, was sent yesterday to Vice-Admiral Hornby for his guidance in the event of an attempt on the part of the Russian forces to occupy the Peninsula of Gallipoli.

In the latter part of this telegram the Vice-Admiral is instructed to abstain from taking any part in attempting to prevent by force the entry of Russian troops into Constantinople, and is further informed that the instructions as to the Turkish fleet sent to him on the 14th instant, and communicated to you in my letter of the same date, are confirmed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 939.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

(Telegraphic.) *Admiralty, February 21, 1878.*

GOVERNMENT has been informed by Russia that she will not occupy Gallipoli, or enter lines of Bulair, or land troops on European or Asiatic side of Dardanelles, if England equally abstains from doing so.

Preserve watchful attitude, but avoid hostile demonstration unless rendered necessary by breach of this engagement.

If Bulair lines are attacked, ships there may assist to cover flank on both sides

with their guns, but only in case of real attempt to capture lines which would endanger Dardanelles being closed to fleet.

Foregoing instructions have been telegraphed to Senior Officer, Besika Bay; also to Rear-Admiral at Gallipoli, who is to communicate them to ships in Gulf of Xeros; but send them similar orders yourself.

Abstain from taking part by force in effort to prevent Russians from entering Constantinople.

Instructions in telegram No. 21 as to Turkish fleet are confirmed.

No. 940.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 256.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 20, 1878.

I VENTURE to suggest to Her Majesty's Government that the time is come to decide upon the course to be pursued. The demand for the surrender of the Turkish fleet and the entry of 30,000 Russian troops into Constantinople completely alter situation. It appears to me that we have only one of two courses to pursue—to withdraw Her Majesty's ships altogether from the Sea of Marmora, or to call upon the Turks to deliver over to us at once their ships, and in case of refusal, to take them by force, which would probably not be resisted. In the event of our adopting the second course we should be prepared for consequences and take our measures at once.

Should the Russians insist upon so immediate a delivery of the ships that I do not receive your instructions in time, I would take upon myself the responsibility of calling upon the Turkish Government to deliver over ships to Admiral Hornby.

I do not attach slightest value to Russian pledge of not occupying Gallipoli under conditions specified. We ought to take measures to enable the Commander at Bulair to defend lines. I would also urgently submit to Her Majesty's Government that the Russians may now at any moment march round by Dercos and take possession of heights at entrance to Bosphorus, from which our ships could not dislodge them. I would also represent to Her Majesty's Government the effect upon the Mahommedan world of the entry of a Russian army into Constantinople in the presence of a British fleet afraid or unable to oppose it.

Admiral Hornby informs me that even under present circumstances the ships could co-operate materially with Turks in defence.

No. 941.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 261.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 21, 1878.

I HAVE received from a source which I believe to be trustworthy the following:—

Additional details of the conditions of peace:—

Bulgarian tribute to correspond to annual revenue.

Bulgarian Government to work for two years under a Russian Commission (Commissioner?).

Prince to be elected by an Assembly of Bulgarian notables.

His election to be submitted to the sanction of the Great Powers and of the Porte.

Differences between the Porte and Montenegro to be henceforth settled by Russian and Austrian arbitration.

Autonomy proposed at first sitting of the Conference for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Reforms proposed by Conference for other Christian provinces upon understanding with Great Powers.

Administrative reforms for Crete, with the reforms recently demanded by the Cretans.

Straits to be closed to ships-of-war, as heretofore.

Absolute freedom of navigation for the mercantile marine, even in time of war.

Six iron-clads, to be chosen by Russia, to be ceded.

The cost of maintaining prisoners of war, and the repairs at Sulina mouth of Danube.

No. 942.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February* 22, 1878.

A SEMI-OFFICIAL article of "Agence Russe" denies, as utterly unfounded, telegraphic intelligence of foreign press that Russia had demanded expulsion of the Mussulman population from Bulgaria. The Russian Government, it says, wish to deliver Bulgaria from the Turkish functionaries, the Turkish troops, the Bashi-Bazouks, and Circassians—the curse equally of Mussulmans and Christians.

No. 943.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 22, 1878, 6·15 P.M.

TELEGRAM was sent yesterday to Admiral Hornby informing him of Russian engagements respecting Gallipoli. He was instructed to preserve watchful attitude, but to avoid hostile demonstration, unless rendered necessary by breach of this engagement. If Bulair lines are attacked, ships may assist to cover flank on both sides with their guns, but only in case of real attempt to capture lines. He is to abstain from taking part by force in effort to prevent Russians from entering Constantinople. Previous instructions as to Turkish fleet are confirmed.

No. 944.

The Earl of Derby to Prince Jon Ghika.

M. le Prince, *Foreign Office, February* 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Highness' note of the 17th instant, containing a Memorandum on the present situation of Roumania.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 945.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 22, 1878.

WITH reference to my letter of the 19th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a report from Colonel Siborne as to the desirability of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" remaining at Sulina;* and I am to request you to inform their Lordships that Lord Derby is of opinion that under the circumstances it would be best to order the "Cockatrice" to remain at Sulina for the present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 946.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 111.)

My Lord, *Athens, February* 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the "Ephimeris" newspaper of yesterday's date states that on the $\frac{3rd}{15th}$ instant a band of 700 men, under the leadership of two Members of the Greek Chamber of Deputies, MM. Hadjisko and Diovouniotes, entered Thessaly, and that the same paper of to-day's date states that M. D. S. Soutzo, who, I am informed, is a son of General Soutzo, who commands the troops at Lamia, has accompanied the above-mentioned Deputies at the head of a strong body of Thessalians and volunteers.

I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship an extract in translation from the "Stoa" of to-day's date stating that the insurrection in Thessaly is spreading, and giving the names of insurgent Chiefs and leaders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

P.S.—The telegrams to the "Ephimeris" announcing the passage into Thessaly of the bands in question are dated from Lamia, the head-quarters of General Soutzo.

H. W.

Inclosure in No. 946.

Extract from the "Stoa" of February $\frac{A}{Feb}$, 1878.

(Translation.)

FROM information we have been able to obtain, the insurrection in Thessaly is spreading in all the Peleon: on this side of Volo, from Velestina to Sourpi, and again from Rentini to Karditsi. The Chiefs and Military Chiefs are as follows:—

1. Z. Basdeki; 2. Graphis; 3. Tzelios; 4. Exarchos; 5. Condoyannis; 6 D. Soutzos; 7. Diovouniotis; 8. C. Hadgiskos; 9. Velentzas; 10. Leon. Platoutzas; 11. Leloudas; 12. Mitzas; 13. Nicolaïdes (Professor of Mathematics at the University of Athens); 14. Bellos (of the Sacred Company); 15. Nicolaïdes; 16. Ischonachos; 17. Zouloumi; 18. Galis; 19. Maroulis. In Epirus:—1. Zervas; 2. Valaorites; 3. Zois Zoides. At the head of about 6,000 insurgents.

No. 947.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 150. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, February* 18, 1878.

I HAD the honour to receive yesterday morning your Lordship's telegram repeating that from Mr. Layard of the 16th instant, in which his Excellency states that the Turkish Minister at Rome has reported to his Government that the Italian Government has been persuaded by Prince Bismarck not to send ships to Constantinople, and that the policy of Italy would be guided by Germany and Russia. Mr. Layard adds that this impression is borne out by the conduct pursued by the Italian Minister at Constantinople.

Although it seems somewhat strange that the Turkish Minister here should make it a complaint against the Italian Government that they do not adopt a course against which, in the case of England, the Porte has protested, and shows no inclination to favour in the case of Austria, I have nevertheless deemed it my duty to bring the report, without mentioning from whence it came, under the notice of M. Depretis, and I have already had the honour of reporting to your Lordship by telegraph the substance of his Excellency's reply.

It amounts to this: that M. Depretis denies in the most positive manner that he has been influenced by Prince Bismarck in reference to the question of sending the ships to Constantinople, and that he has received no communication whatever from his Highness on the subject; that, in regard to Italian policy being guided by Germany and Russia, M. Depretis, while admitting the importance attached by the Italian Government to their friendship with Germany, contends, nevertheless, that Italy has interests of the

most paramount nature in the East, which Germany has not, or professes not to have; that it is not necessary for Italy to sacrifice these interests to her desire for the friendship of Germany; that the German Government has always been informed that those interests were the interests of the maritime Powers, that the principal of them was the free navigation of the Straits and Bosphorus, and consequently that neither should be, either directly or indirectly, in the hands of Russia.

M. Depretis likewise informed me that he was endeavouring to bring about united action with all the Powers, Austria, France, and Germany, in regard to sending ships to Constantinople, for he felt how important it was, now that part of the British fleet was there, that the other Powers should be represented by their navies; but he had received no answer from either Berlin or Paris.

His Excellency said also that though the Austrian Government might not, in applying for the Firman, have stated that it was only to be used "in case of need," it was, nevertheless, a fact that Count Andrassy, in informing Count Robillant that the Firman had been applied for, had told him it was "only in case of need" that it would be used; that, if it was refused, the Porte would be exercising its right, and that the Austrian ships would not enter the Dardanelles. It appeared to his Excellency, moreover, that, if the Austrian Government was really in earnest in this matter, their ships would have gone to Besika to await the answer, and not to Syra, where they were now anchored.

The Italian Government, M. Depretis said, was not inclined to expose itself to a refusal of the Firman without the power of following the proceeding any further. The naval strength of Italy was not sufficient to enable her to act alone in this matter, and therefore he considered it better to await the reply which the Porte would return to the Austrian application.

It was, however, M. Depretis added, the intention of the Italian Government that their squadron in the Levant, which would be composed of all their available ships—seven ironclads, besides other vessels, should shortly move from their present station, Salonica and its neighbourhood, to Besika Bay, and it would be in command of their most able naval officer, Vice-Admiral Sir Bon.

Before my leaving his Excellency he read me a telegram, dated the 16th, from Count Robillant, saying that there were better hopes at Vienna of a peaceful issue to the present crisis, owing to counsels of moderation which it was known were being given by Prince Bismarck at St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 948.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 151.)

My Lord, *Rome, February* 17, 1878.

IN compliance with your Lordship's telegraphic instructions of yesterday's date, I have informed M. Depretis that in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government the immediate assembling of the Conference seems to promise the only satisfactory issue from the present political complications, and have urged his Excellency to press upon the Russian Government that the Conference should be forthwith convened.

M. Depretis replied that he had not the slightest difficulty in agreeing to send instructions to the Italian Ambassador at St. Petersburgh in this sense, and that he would do so at once.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 949.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 154. Strictly Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, February 19, 1878.*

IN the audience which I had the honour to have of the King to-day, His Majesty spoke for some time respecting the state of affairs in Europe produced by the Russian conquests over Turkey.

His Majesty began by asking me if I had any news to give him, and upon my acquainting His Majesty that I had this morning received a telegram from your Lordship stating that the Russian Ambassador had been authorized by Prince Gortchakow to declare that the Imperial Cabinet maintains its promise not to occupy Gallipoli nor to enter the lines of Bulair, His Majesty remarked that though this might remove the immediate danger of hostilities between England and Russia, he still considered the situation as extremely grave, and he did not for his part see how, in the position which Russia now occupied, anything but the worst consequences could occur as regards the interests of the Western Powers and Austria.

Every one, His Majesty said, had been tricked, "tout le monde a été joué." Of course there would be one means of averting these consequences, viz., a combination between England, Italy, Austria, and France. If these Powers, His Majesty continued, were to establish a thorough understanding and send in a joint declaration which it should be understood would be followed by a declaration of war if not complied with, then of course this would alter the position of things. But what chance was there of establishing this understanding?

I observed that perhaps not much was to be expected from France, but I submitted to His Majesty whether he did not think that an alliance between England, Italy, and Austria would be sufficient to secure our interests.

The King replied that it certainly would, but His Majesty expressed strong doubts whether it would suit Prince Bismarck's purpose that it should be carried into effect. No one, His Majesty said, had yet been able to fathom the projects which the Great Chancellor was brooding in his mind. If his Highness had not wished for this war it would not have taken place. Some object he certainly had in view, but what that object was no human being knew, or what was the advantage that he now intended to derive from the war ("le parti qu'il en veut tirer.") His Majesty said that he would have willingly seen his fleet go with that of England through the Dardanelles, but how was Italy to act without the other Powers? It was very well for England to take a line of her own, for nobody could get near her to injure her, but the position of Italy was a very different one. But what would England gain by going to war now? His Majesty inquired. If she had acted sooner the state of affairs would now have been very different; other Powers might have joined her; but as it was, His Majesty said, it seemed to him that the best thing for every one would be to make "bonne mine à mauvais jeu," and to abide the time for bettering their position.

I observed that I still thought something might be gained if England, Italy, and Austria acted together in the Conference, and that as Italy and England had common interests to defend, I trusted His Majesty's Representative would support the views of Her Majesty's Government.

The King replied, "Oh, quant à celà, il n'y aura pas de difficulté," but His Majesty said he could not feel much confidence in the issue of the Conference

As the King has always been in the habit of speaking to me with the utmost freedom, His Majesty no doubt expressed himself on this occasion with much less restraint than he otherwise would, and I therefore venture to request that this report of His Majesty's observations may be considered as strictly confidential.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

P.S—I see that I have omitted to mention that in speaking of France, His Majesty made some very bitter remarks respecting the utter effacement of that country.

A. P.

No. 950.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 157. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, February 19, 1878.*

IN Sir Henry Elliot's despatch No. 68, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, of which your Lordship did me the honour to forward me a copy in your despatch No. 79, Confidential, of the 9th instant, his Excellency reports that, in the event of Austria being involved in war with Russia, Count Andrassy had expressed himself as altogether free from anxiety as to the attitude of Germany, and added that "if Austria were obliged to mobilize her army, she would have to place a force of 200,000 men upon her southern frontier as a precaution against any designs on the part of Italy; but that would be all that was required."

It may be gathered from this that Austria has some objects in view which she knows would excite the jealousy, if not the hostility, of Italy; for, if such were not the case, the Austrian Government must be perfectly well aware that they have nothing whatever to apprehend from this country.

I have so lately written at length upon the question of the chances of Italy attacking Austria that I am loth to trouble your Lordship with any further observations upon the same subject. I may, however, repeat my conviction that nothing is at present further from the thoughts of the Italian Government, and that it would require a very exceptional and improbable combination of circumstances to make such a course at all likely.

But the policy of Austria does not inspire some persons connected with the Italian Government with entire confidence; and although I am bound to say that M. Depretis has never openly expressed to me that he shares in such misgivings, yet your Lordship will have remarked the persistency with which his Excellency returns to the point that none of the Great Powers should derive territorial advantages at the expense of Turkey; and he makes no secret that the motive of this condition is to prevent the annexation of Bosnia by Austria.

It is argued by those who distrust Austria that she is known to object to almost all the arrangements which have been laid down by Russia; but as far as the Italian Government is aware there is no point upon which she has declared that she is prepared to support her objections by war. The conclusion, therefore, which is drawn from this is, that if Austria is not ready to go to war to prevent the carrying out of any one of these arrangements, she may possibly seek to secure her interests by territorial acquisitions for herself.

It has been remarked that the tone of the Austrian press has been much less warlike of late, and that the "Neue Freie Presse," which is thought to represent Count Andrassy's opinions, had an article last week stating very distinctly that "England and Austria could now do nothing against the consequences of the policy they had followed, and their only course was to bow their heads before accomplished facts."

If Austria really entertains the project of annexing Bosnia, it is certainly to be feared that it will prove an obstacle to the cordial understanding between her and Italy, so long, at least, as the present Italian Cabinet is in office; but if the Austrian Cabinet does not entertain it, it is impossible not to be hopeful, from the language which has been invariably held to me by M. Depretis, that the Italian Government will give a frank and loyal support to the policy of Austria and England in the Congress; but of course, if Austria mobilizes her army, and places 200,000 men on the Italian frontier before the meeting of the Congress, the policy of the Italian Government, as regards Austria, must be expected to undergo a very important change.

Whether more than diplomatic support is to be expected from Italy in the event of the Congress not leading to the establishment of peace, is a question which, I believe, will depend upon the attitude not only of Austria, but of Germany; for, notwithstanding the good disposition which has lately been evinced by the Italian Prime Minister, and the interpretation which I was led to put upon his Excellency's language, and the correctness of which he afterwards admitted, that the Italian Government would be ready to join England and Austria in preventing the occupation of Constantinople by Russia, there can be little doubt that the Italian Government attach a paramount importance to their relations with Germany, and, consequently, unless it can be ascertained that their joining in an alliance against Russia would not be resented by the Cabinet of Berlin, it is, I fear, to be foreseen that their action at the critical moment may be paralyzed by the representations of the German Government, and that they will with difficulty be brought to

depart from a policy of neutrality, which at present appears to be the only one contemplated by the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 951.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 158.)
My Lord, *Rome, February 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation from the "Italie" of an article in the "Roma" newspaper, relative to a report, which I believe to be well founded, of an intention of the Minister of War to demand an additional credit for the army, and stating that in case of Italy having to undertake a campaign, in consequence of circumstances which do not exist at the present moment, she would be enabled to place an army of 200,000 men of the first line in the field, perfectly equipped.

I have myself heard this number confirmed by Italian military authorities, but I do not think it would be possible for Italy to send such a force out of the country unless she received pecuniary assistance from some other Power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 951.

Extract from "L'Italie" of February 18, 1878.

INFORMATIONS MILITAIRES.—Nous lisons dans le journal "Roma":—

"On nous confirme la nouvelle de la possibilité d'une demande de fonds pour augmenter les régiments de cavalerie et compléter les batteries.

"Les nouveaux régiments seront au nombre de dix, mais ils seraient composés en partie d'escadrons anciens et en partie d'escadrons nouveaux.

"Les chevaux ne manquent pas; le Général Mezzacapo a pourvu à temps dès l'année dernière.

"Quant à l'artillerie, elle aurait un matériel et un personnel suffisants.

"Dans le cas où l'Italie devrait entrer en campagne, à la suite d'éventualités qui n'existent heureusement pas aujourd'hui, des hommes compétents assurent que nous pourrions avoir une armée de première ligne de plus de 200,000 hommes parfaitement équipés."

No. 952.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 161.)
My Lord, *Rome, February 20, 1878.*

AT an interview which I had yesterday with M. Depretis, his Excellency informed me that the Austrian Government had proposed, I understood through their Ambassador here, that the Congress should be held at Baden-Baden early in March, and that he had at once notified the assent of the Italian Government to this arrangement.

His Excellency asked me, as he has done often of late, if I had received any communication from your Lordship as to the details of the policy which Her Majesty's Government intended to advocate at the Congress, and expressed much anxiety for early information on this subject, the more particularly as the Congress is to meet so soon.

His Excellency again mentioned the liberty of navigation through the Straits, and that none of the Great Powers should acquire additional territory, as the two questions on which he was the most anxious.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

P.S.—My Austrian colleague informs me that it must have been through the Italian Ambassador at Vienna that the proposal of his Government to hold the Congress

at Baden-Baden was made, as he has not been charged with any communication on the subject.

A. P.

No. 953.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 164.)
My Lord, *Rome, February 20, 1878.*

I INFORMED M. Depretis, in an interview I had with him yesterday, that your Lordship had received a communication from the Russian Ambassador by which the Russian Government maintains its promise not to occupy Gallipoli or to enter the Bulaïr lines, and his Excellency expressed great satisfaction at receiving this intelligence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 954.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, February 23.)

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le 20 Février, 1878.*

A LA suite de mon télégramme du 5 concernant les dépêches télégraphiques échangées entre le Ministère et M. Coundouriotis sur la prétendue nouvelle invasion du territoire Turc par les troupes Royales, je m'empresse de vous communiquer ce qui suit:—Le Ministre de Turquie à Athènes, dans son entrevu d'hier, m'a communiqué un télégramme de Server Pacha dont voici la teneur ci-peu-près: Nous avons de la peine à concilier les assurances du Gouvernement Hellénique avec ce qui se passe depuis quelques jours. Les Hellènes ont de nouveau envahi le pays, et ont porté leurs dévastations jusqu'à Arta. Veuillez interpeller M. Delyanni sur ce grave événement, et me télégraphier sa réponse. J'ai remarqué à Photiades Bey que Server Pasha s'étant servi d'un mot ambigu et vague, je ne saurai ni expliquer si par le mot "Hellènes" sont entendues les troupes Royales, ou simplement des volontaires. Dans le premier cas je l'assurai que pas un seul soldat n'a refranchi la frontière, et que le Gouvernement avait donné des ordres sévères pour la punition de tout désertion. Si Servèr Pacha fait allusion aux volontaires, le Gouvernement a également communiqué les ordres nécessaires aux autorités civiles et militaires compétentes pour empêcher les attroupements de gens armés, et leurs sortie du territoire Grec, et pour poursuivre tout mouvement incriminable. Mais j'ai ajouté que la ligne frontière était difficile à bien garder à cause de son étendue, et par une contrariété la vigilance des autorités pouvait être trompée, comme en effet le prouve une dépêche du Consul de Janina annonçant que des volontaires Epirotes, sous la conduite de chefs Epirotes, ont franchi clandestinement les frontières non gardés par les troupes Grecques, se dirigeant sur Arte. Ce fait pourrait avoir motivé la dépêche de Server Pacha. Vous aurez de détails par poste.

No. 955.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 187.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter in which M. Callimaki Catargi requests me to forward to your Lordship a copy of a Circular which has been addressed by the Roumanian Government to its Agents abroad.

I inclose also a copy of the Circular in question.

It contains a request addressed to Great Britain, in common with other Great Powers, to recognize at once the independence of Roumania, and to admit a Roumanian Representative to the proposed Conference.

M. Callimaki Catargi brought me these papers himself, and earnestly begged me to obtain for him as soon as possible an answer for transmission to his Government.

I confined myself to promising to communicate the papers to your Lordship without loss of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 955.

M. Callimaki Catargi to Lord Lyons.

Paris, ce 22 Février, 1878.

Milord,

PAR une note en date du $\frac{8}{20}$ Février, M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Roumanie me charge de saisir le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine de deux questions qui sont pour notre pays du plus grave intérêt.

Afin de me conformer aux instructions qui me sont données j'ai l'honneur de remettre à votre Seigneurie copie de la note que j'ai reçue à ce sujet.

Je vous prie, Milord, de prendre en considération le caractère urgent de cette communication et d'insister auprès du Cabinet de Londres pour qu'il veuille bien autoriser votre Seigneurie à me mettre en mesure de transmettre au Gouvernement Roumain la réponse qu'il attend avec une légitime impatience.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signed) N. CALLIMAKI CATARGI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 955.

M. Cogalniceano to M. Callimaki Catargi.

Bucarest, ce $\frac{8}{20}$ Février, 1878.

Monsieur,

PAR note circulaire du $\frac{22}{10}$ dernier, le Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Prince Charles I. de Roumanie chargeait ses Représentants auprès des différents Cabinets Européens d'expliquer l'irrésistible mouvement national qui avait déterminé le pays à proclamer son indépendance.

La Roumanie faisait alors appel aux sentiments traditionnels de bienveillance des Grandes Puissances envers elle, non pour obtenir une reconnaissance immédiate de la nouvelle situation politique dont elle avait pris l'initiative, mais pour demander que cette bienveillance ne lui fût pas retirée, et ne lui fit pas défaut quand arriverait l'heure des solutions suprêmes, quand l'Europe jugerait devoir intervenir dans le règlement des questions soulevées par la guerre.

Cette heure a sonné; les combinaisons éclairées des Cabinets Européens, dont la généreuse entremise s'est toujours appliquée à satisfaire et à concilier tous les intérêts, vont organiser un nouvel ordre de choses en Orient. Aussi le peuple Roumain, facteur des problèmes actuellement en solution, croit-il le moment venu pour lui de se présenter de nouveau devant les Grandes Puissances.

La Roumanie, après s'être proclamée indépendante, a pris part à la guerre contre l'Empire Ottoman, faut pour trancher par les armes les différends sans cesse renaissant qui marquaient ses rapports avec la Sublime Porte, que pour attester que ses aspirations n'étaient pas impuissantes et qu'elle était vraiment digne de l'indépendance dont elle s'était dotée, puisqu'elle savait la payer du meilleur de son sang.

La part qu'elle a prise dans le récent conflit pour sa propre cause, les sacrifices qu'elle a courageusement accomplis, la personnalité qu'elle a conservée dans les complications où elle a été mêlée, témoignent hautement non plus seulement de son vif désir mais de son aptitude réelle à vivre de sa vie propre, et de son entière capacité à entrer de plain pied dans la grande famille Européenne.

Arrivée par la faveur constante de l'Europe, qui suivait avec intérêt le développement progressif de ses institutions et de ses ressources, à un degré de civilisation qui l'autorise à s'assimiler et permettrait qu'on l'assimilât aux autres Etats indépendants, forte de cette énergie qui seule assure aux peuples leur existence et démontre en même temps la nécessité pour eux d'une individualité distincte et formelle, la Roumanie a confiance que les Puissances garantes en général et le Gouvernement Britannique en particulier n'hésiteront plus à la dégager de la situation équivoque et anormale où elle se trouvait, à confirmer son droit de figurer désormais en Europe comme Etat indépendant, à la mettre enfin complètement en mesure d'accomplir librement la mission qui lui est assignée sur le Bas Danube.

Tel est, M. l'Agent, l'ordre d'idées dans lequel vous voudrez bien vous placer pour communiquer au Cabinet auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité le vœu que forme le Gouvernement Roumain de voir sanctionner actuellement par le Cabinet[a] l'indépendance proclamée en Roumanie le $\frac{9}{21}$ Mai, 1877, et de voir admettre au sein de la prochaine Conférence un Représentant Roumain qui exposerait à l'aréopage Européen les besoins nouveaux créés à la Roumanie par sa transformation politique.

Je vous autorise à donner lecture et à laisser copie à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Grande Bretagne de la présente Circulaire.

Dans l'attente de vos informations sur le résultat de la démarche que vous êtes chargé de faire, je vous prie, &c.

(Signé) COGALNICEANO.

No. 956.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 262.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 22*, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of to-day, there is not the slightest doubt that the expulsion of the Mahommedan population from Bulgaria was demanded by General Ignatiew. This is proved by official report of first meeting of Plenipotentiaries, which has been shown to me most secretly, and you must not, therefore, mention it. The demand may have been since withdrawn.

No. 957.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, February 23*, 1878.

"MUSCOVITE," mail steamer, advertised to leave for Constantinople this afternoon, has been ordered by telegraph from St. Petersburgh not to go. I have been informed that German Ambassador at former place represented that feeling was so strong there against Russia that it might be dangerous for the vessel.

I know positively that the conditions of armistice were telegraphed hence to German Chancellor on the 2nd instant.

No. 958.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 23*, 1878, 2 P.M.

IT is important that Her Majesty's Government should be kept informed of the whereabouts of the Turkish ships. Communicate with the Admiral, and endeavour to ascertain accurately where they are now, and what is going on in the Black Sea.

No. 959.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 23*, 1878, 3·10 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day, report the names of the Turkish ironclads in Constantinople waters.

---

[a] Qy. "Anglais."

No. 960.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 23, 1878, 5·45 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 258, Her Majesty's Government could not place any confidence in the telegraph route through Lagos. Make every endeavour to induce the Porte to consent to the landing of our cable at Tenedos.

You may say that the Porte will be put to no expense in the matter, and that, when laid, the cable will be worked without any expense to the Porte afterwards.

No. 961.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 23, 1878.

ENDEAVOUR to ascertain what Russians are doing with their fleet. Have they any ships ready to issue out of Baltic when the ice breaks up? What is the condition of the ships both in Baltic and Black Sea, but especially in former? How far are they ready for sea?

No. 962.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 152. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 23, 1878.

I HAVE learnt from an informant, who has confidence in the accuracy of his information, that it is stipulated by Russia that the Bulgarian frontier shall extend to Salonica; that the Mussulman population shall be granted one year within which it shall emigrate and sell its property; that the Danubian fortresses shall be razed; that till a national militia shall be organized the Province shall be occupied by 60,000 Russians; that Bosnia and the Herzegovina shall receive autonomy, the two Provinces being, by the aggrandizement of Servia and Montenegro, entirely cut off from Turkey; and that an equivalent will be reserved for the five milliards of francs, which is the amount to be fixed as the war indemnity.

My informant added that he believed it to be probable that the Sultan would, under Russian pressure, accept the terms and protest afterwards; and stated that an immediate meeting of the Conference was desired at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 963.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 187.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 23, 1878.

I HAVE to request your Excellency to ascertain and report confidentially to me upon the following points:—

1. What are the Russians doing with their fleet?
2. What is the condition of their ships both in the Baltic and Black Seas, but more especially in the former?
3. How far are they ready for sea?
4. Have the Russians any ships ready to issue out of the Baltic when the ice breaks up?

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 964.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 237.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 19, 1878.

IN reply to my note to M. de Giers of the 15th instant, with respect to Drs. Leslie, Neville, and Armand, said to have been made prisoners by the Russian forces, I have received from his Excellency the inclosed communication.

His Excellency informs me that on receipt of my note of the 27th January / 8th February (copy of which was forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 164 of the 18th instant), Prince Gortchakow immediately communicated to the Imperial Commander-in-chief the complaints of certain British subjects who had arrived at Constantinople of ill-treatment by the military authorities.

A telegram received from the head-quarters proves that three English doctors, Leslie, Neville, and Kirkpatrick, as also a newspaper correspondent, Mr. Bell, had been treated as prisoners of war, notwithstanding the orders of General Gourko to release them, and that unfortunately they have been subjected to ill-treatment by certain subaltern authorities.

The telegram adds that the Imperial Commander-in-chief extremely regrets this untoward incident, and that his Imperial Highness has given strict orders for an immediate inquiry into the matter, and for the rigorous punishment of the guilty parties.

From this information, it would appear that Drs. Leslie and Neville were the doctors referred to in Mr. Layard's telegram of the 7th instant, and that consequently they had reached Constantinople.

No mention is made of Dr. Armand; but M. de Giers promises me further information on the subject of the English doctors referred to in my note when it shall reach him from the military authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 964.

M. de Giers to Lord A. Loftus.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, le* $\frac{6}{18}$ *Février*, 1878.

JE m'empresse d'accuser réception de la note de votre Excellence en date du $\frac{3}{15}$ de ce mois relativement aux médecins Anglais qui, selon les renseignements de Lord Derby, auraient été fait prisonniers par nos troupes.

En réponse à cette communication je me fais un devoir de vous informer que son Altesse le Chancelier n'a pas manqué, dès la réception de votre note du $\frac{27 \text{ Janvier}}{8 \text{ Février}}$ qui l'informait des plaintes formulées par certains sujets Britanniques arrivés à Constantinople, quant à la manière dont ils avaient été traités par nos autorités militaires, d'en aviser M. le Grand Duc Commandant-en-chef de notre armée en Bulgarie.

Un télégramme du quartier général est venu constater depuis qu'effectivement trois médecins Anglais, Leslie, Neville, et Kirkpatrick, ainsi qu'un correspondant de journaux, Mr. Bell, avaient subi le sort des prisonniers de guerre, malgré les ordres formels du Général Gourko de les relâcher, et avaient été malheureusement exposés à de mauvais traitements de la part de quelques subalterns. Ce télégramme ajoute que M. le Commandant-en-chef regrette extrêmement ce fâcheux incident et qu'il a donné des ordres sévères pour qu'une enquête soit ouverte immédiatement et les coupables rigoureusement punis.

En portant ces renseignements à votre connaissance, comme les seuls qui nous soient parvenus jusqu'ici quant aux questions que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser relativement au sort de certains médecins Britanniques, je me réserve de les compléter par des informations ultérieures dès que l'état major de l'armée nous les aura fournis à la suite de la communication de votre note du $\frac{3}{15}$ de ce mois.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 965.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 24.)

(No 241.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith a telegram from Odessa, published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of this day, announcing the occupation of Soulina by the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 965.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of February $\frac{7}{19}$, 1878.

Télégramme de l'Aide-de-Camp Général Sémèka.

Odessa, le $\frac{5}{17}$ Février, 1878.

APRÈS avoir été évacuée par les Turcs le $\frac{31 \text{ Janvier}}{12 \text{ Février}}$, la ville de Soulina a été occupée par deux compagnies du 143e régiment d'infanterie, de Dorogobouge.

No. 966.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, February 23, 1878.*

VICEROY informs me that he has learnt secretly from his Agent at Constantinople that Namyk Pasha is not leaving for St. Petersburgh for the following reasons:—

The Czar has informed the Sultan that he will (receive?) no Emissary from him until preliminary conditions of peace are carried out.

The Russian troops are to be allowed to enter Constantinople, and the Porte have decided that they are powerless to resist it, and they cannot rely on support of England. The question of Sultan's departure for Brousa during Russian occupation is not yet decided, but the Viceroy has strongly advised His Majesty under no circumstances to leave his capital. Viceroy begs that his name may not be mentioned in connection with this information.

No. 967.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 263.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 23, 1878.*

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS will come to San Stefano, a suburb of Constantinople, to-morrow, with about 1,500 men, accompanied by Plenipotentiaries, and it is expected that peace will be signed there, and called the "Peace of Constantinople." Turkish Plenipotentiaries were authorized two (?) days ago to accept all Russian demands except surrender of iron-clads, which Porte refuses to give up. That for expulsion of Mahommedan population from Bulgaria has been withdrawn or modified. All others have been insisted upon, and Grand Duke has threatened that if any protest or opposition is made he will enter Constantinople by force. The city will now be virtually in his possession. I am informed that if peace be not signed before the 27th instant, Porte will be called upon to pay 2,000,000 francs a-day for support of Russian army. I am told that Grand Duke intends to remain at San Stefano for one or two months. Minister of War went to neutral ground to-day, to prevent conflict or accident, which might give pretext to Russians to enter Constantinople by force.

No. 968.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 264. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 24, 1878.*

I AM informed that Roumanian Agent at Vienna has addressed a communication to the Porte through the Turkish Embassy expressing the wish of his Government to come to a direct and separate understanding with Turkey.

No. 969.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 24, 1878.*

"AGENCE RUSSE" of to-day states that agreement concerning Gallipoli and Bulaïr has caused relaxation of tension in relations between England and Russia. Negotiations with Turkey are advancing, and to facilitate them as regards distance Grand Duke Nicholas, with consent of Porte, will move his head-quarters to San Stefano. Reported mission of Namyk Pasha to St. Petersburgh is useless, and as the Grand Duke Nicholas has full powers, would only have retarded negotiations. Leading article of same journal refers to importance of Conference being attended by Ministers for Foreign Affairs, and suggests that as Prince Bismarck's health prevents his going far from Berlin, Conference should meet at Berlin.

No. 970.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 24, 1878.*

I AM officially informed that the Emperor has ordered Dr. Nicols, British subject in military hospital at Kischeneff, and Mr. Georges, captured with "Mersina," to be released. Turkish Captain, Mehemet Bey, inquired for by your telegram of 21st ultimo, taken prisoner at Shipka, is now at Bucharest, ambulance 54.

No. 971.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, February 24, 1878.*

STEAM-VESSEL "Grand Duke Constantine" left Sebastopol Tuesday last, destination unknown. I have reason to believe she carried torpedoes.

No. 972.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 6. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, February 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that on Saturday, the 2nd instant, the Governor-General of Bosnia was informed by the Porte that an Armistice of six weeks had been concluded between Russia and Turkey, and the local official newspaper, the "Bosna," issued to-day, publishes a telegram from Ahmed Vefik Pasha, announcing his nomination as Prime Minister, and stating that the Bases of Peace having been fixed, the war has been brought to a close.

In spite of this, however, the same number of the "Bosna" (No. 609 of February 8, 1878), contains an inflammatory article against Russia and Servia, inasmuch especially the latter, calling on the inhabitants of this province to show their patriotism by arming in defence of their country and beating back the invader.

I will not weary your Lordship by a relation of the whole article, but will confine myself to two paragraphs, literally translated from the original, which will convey a correct idea of its general tone and animus:—

"It is known to us that the Servians have again proclaimed the insurrection. These cowardly infuriated dogs, attacking our sacred frontier, are subduing and destroying our villages and towns, and oppressing our helpless countrymen, and are thus endeavouring to avenge themselves for the humiliating blows which they received last year."

"Children of the Country!

"It is necessary that you arm yourselves with the arms of valour, and that you endeavour to definitively drive back this danger, that you may thus restore peace to your country, and that you may crush the enemy even more than you did last year. The enemy advances; his aim is to destroy the country; the sons of the land must resist him."

At a moment when the question of peace or war remains suspended in the balance, it appears to me highly injudicious, and even disloyal, to publish articles in an official newspaper likely to arouse the passions of an ignorant and fanatical population, and I purpose availing myself of the earliest opportunity to bring the matter to the notice of his Excellency Mazhar Pasha.

On the other hand, Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper telegraphs to me from Novi-Bazar, as I telegraphed yesterday to your Lordship, that, in spite of the Armistice, the Servians continue to advance in the neighbourhood of Sjenica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 973.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 97. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 9, 1878.*

THE Austro-Hungarian Government are evidently by no means easy about a report published in some of the newspapers of an offensive and defensive Treaty having been arranged between Russia and Turkey, considering that, if it should prove correct, the position of any ships of war ordered to Constantinople might become critical. When the Powers determined to leave Turkey entirely to the mercies of Russia, they could not, of course, have shut their eyes to the possibility that when the Sultan was thoroughly prostrate at the feet of his enemy, without hope of assistance from any side, he might be induced to prolong the semblance of his Empire by becoming the virtual vassal of the Czar.

I was asked to-day by Baron Calice what would be the position of our ships of war at Constantinople if Russia and Turkey combined to resist their presence there.

Supposing also that Turkey had already consented to give up her fleet to Russia, would it be allowed to pass under the Russian flag, and perhaps to oppose our presence at Constantinople by force?

I said that even if there were a Treaty between Russia and Turkey such as was suspected, and whatever might be the anger of the Turks against the Western Powers, whom they looked upon as having selfishly abandoned them, I doubted whether the Turkish people could be induced at this moment to join that Power in actual hostilities in resisting a movement regarded as directed against their enemy.

We must be prepared to find the Porte very subservient to Russia, but scarcely, I thought, as yet, to the extent of joining her in hostile action against us.

With regard to the handing over of the fleet to Russia, that was a matter upon which I could express no opinion. A demand by Russia for the Turkish fleet as a war indemnity would not be at variance with existing arrangements, but it might be competent for the Powers to object to the execution of any portion of a Treaty between Russia and Turkey, of which some provisions affect the general Treaties, until the whole had been rendered legal and valid by a European sanction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 974.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 99.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 9, 1878.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram announcing that a portion of Her Majesty's fleet had been ordered to Constantinople, and directing me to invite the Austrian Government to adopt a similar measure, reached me last night, when I immediately communicated the substance of it to Count Andrassy.

I have not been able to see his Excellency this morning, and Baron Calice was unable to tell me that as yet any decision had been come to as regards the sending of ships; but he added confidentially that he did not doubt that Count Andrassy would cause orders to be given to the Austrian Naval Commanders similar to those sent by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 975.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 101. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 9, 1878.*

ALTHOUGH Count Andrassy has been made acquainted by telegraph with the general tenour of Prince Gortchakow's answer to the invitation for a Conference, he abstains from expressing any decided opinion about the question of Vienna being the place for holding it till he is in possession of the written answer, which has not yet been communicated to him by the Russian Ambassador.

Baron Calice has, however, told me confidentially that he did not think Count Andrassy would try to insist, as a *sine qua non*, upon the Conference being held at Vienna; though in sending out invitations for such a meeting, an Austrian Minister could not do less than offer the Plenipotentiaries the hospitality of this capital.

I told Baron Calice confidentially that there was reason to believe that if Vienna should be finally selected for the meeting, Prince Gortchakow would not himself attend it; and that the Russian Government would be represented by General Ignatiew.

I also said that, although I was not acquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject, I felt sure that they would consider it desirable to consult Prince Gortchakow's wishes as far as possible; and that though Her Majesty's Government had at once accepted and supported Count Andrassy's proposal of having a Conference here, they would certainly rather that some other place were fixed on than there should be risk of serious difficulty or delay in assembling it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 976.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 103.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 11, 1878.*

M. NOVIKOW has communicated to Count Andrassy Prince Gortchakow's answer to the invitation to the Conference, which conveys the expression of the readiness of the Russian Government to take part in it, but sets forth in courteous terms his objections to its being held in any of the great capitals.

Count Andrassy's great wish being that the Conference should assemble as soon as possible, he is unwilling to lose time by maintaining that it should meet at Vienna, as he had at first proposed, and shows himself ready to defer to Prince Gortchakow's wish.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 977.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 105.)
Vienna, February 11, 1878.

My Lord,

M. NOVIKOW this morning communicated to Count Andrassy a telegram he had received from Prince Gortchakow, commenting upon the orders given by Her Majesty's Government for a part of the British fleet to proceed to Constantinople, and saying that it will now be necessary to "keep in view" the entry of a Russian force into that capital for the protection of the Christian population.

Count Andrassy, in informing me of this communication, said that Prince Gortchakow's argument of a Russian occupation being necessary for the protection of the Christians of Constantinople was too absurd to be seriously entertained, and the conclusion arrived at was altogether inadmissible; and he wished to know what Her Majesty's Government would do under a blow aimed so directly at England.

He understood that, in spite of what had been said, the French and Italian Governments had not applied for the Firman for the passage of their ships.

No account had yet been received of the entry of Her Majesty's ships, and he wished to ask whether they would really go up, or would the orders again be recalled in consequence of the objections made by Russia?

Things, he said, had got to such a point that it was necessary to speak plain, and for our two Governments fully to understand each other. For his own part, he looked upon Prince Gortchakow's telegram, which had been sent *en clair*, as mere "brag" intended to intimidate, and he was convinced that the Russians would not enter Constantinople if they found that their doing so would be seriously objected to.

He assumed this from the cautious wording of the telegram, for Prince Gortchakow had been careful not to say that the Russian troops would enter if the ships went up, but he only intimated that such a proceeding must be kept in sight as a possible result of it.

He was, therefore, in no way committed, and would refrain from taking a step likely to lead to a rupture with other Powers.

I replied to Count Andrassy that I would report his observations to your Lordship. I had received no communication from your Lordship on the subject of the ships since I was informed that orders had been given to them to go up, and that the French and Italian Governments had desired Firmans to be applied for for the passage of their vessels. I had, however, so little doubt that, as far as Her Majesty's Government were concerned, they would adhere to the resolution they had announced, and would maintain the orders given to the Admiral, that I fully expected to hear that our ships were by this time at Constantinople.

Count Andrassy must also allow me to remark that, while he was showing this distrust of our action in this matter, he had not yet put me in a position to inform Her Majesty's Government that he had taken any step to follow the example we had set.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 978.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 106. Confidential.)
Vienna, February 11, 1878.

My Lord,

M. BALATCHANO, the Roumanian Agent, who has been summoned to Bucharest by his Government, called upon me this afternoon, when he repeated his declaration of the irrevocable determination of Prince Charles' Government and of the whole Roumanian people not to cede, unless under compulsion, any portion of the territory of the Principality or to accept any compensation for it. His Government had, he said, gone the length of ordering the Roumanian troops now in the Bessarabian districts to refuse to retire if summoned to do so by the Russian authorities. Although the Roumanians appear at present determined not to come to an agreement with Russia upon that subject, they foresee that the Powers, towards whom they obtained the district in question may now call upon them to give it up under a fresh arrangement which will be greatly to their disadvantage. If the Russian frontier is to

be advanced to the Kilia mouth of the Danube, they would prefer, according to M. Balatchano, that the Delta should remain under the direct administration of the Porte; although it would, on the other hand, be necessary to annex it to the Principality rather than it should become a part of the proposed Bulgarian State.

I reminded M. Balatchano that scarcely more than eighteen months ago his Government had put forward a direct claim to the Delta, though he now represented them as having no wish to possess it.

He said that it was quite true that Roumania, with her existing frontier, wished to possess the Delta, as had been decided at the Treaty of Paris; but the position would be totally changed if the Bessarabian districts were to be given up and the Russian frontier brought to the Kilia branch of the Danube. He could only repeat that neither the whole Dobrutcha nor the Delta of the Danube could be regarded as an advantageous possession for Roumania or as a compensation for the district of which it was proposed to deprive her, although it might become necessary for her to consent to acquire some of that territory in order to avoid the still greater evil of the mouths of the Danube being placed in the hands of such a State as it was proposed to create in Bulgaria.

The question of the arrangements to be made regarding the possession of the mouths of the Danube is not one to which the Austrian Government will show themselves indifferent, and they will, I imagine, be in favour of their being included within the Roumanian Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 979.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 108.)
My Lord,
Vienna, February 13, 1878.

IN reply to your Lordship's inquiry, I have the honour to inform you that Prince Gortchakow's acceptance of the Conference proposed by Count Andrassy does not appear to have been accompanied by any reserve or condition, excepting as regards the place where it should be held.

Count Andrassy has declared himself willing to meet his Highness' wishes upon that point, but has expressed his hope that the Conference may be assembled as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 980.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 112. Confidential.)
My Lord,
Vienna, February 13, 1878.

I THIS morning sent to Count Andrassy the substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday evening, stating that there was no question of recalling Her Majesty's ships which had been ordered to Constantinople, where they would proceed to-day, and conveying the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon the good effect which would be produced if Austrian ships were directed to join those of England.

As directed by your Lordship, I reminded his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government had taken all the steps suggested by him; having obtained the vote of credit and ordered a portion of the British fleet to Constantinople; and I asked Count Andrassy to enable me to inform your Lordship what had been and would be done here.

Baron Orczy told me this afternoon, by direction of Count Andrassy, that instructions, which were not facultative or discretionary, but positive, had been already sent to Count Zichy, directing him to apply to the Porte for a Firman to permit the entry of two Austrian ships of war, but that no answer had been received from the Ambassador of the manner in which the Turkish Government had received the application.

Count Andrassy had also informed the Russian Government of the step he had taken, stating to them at the same time that he could not admit the arguments by which Prince Gortchakow had attempted to show that the sending of ships of war by Governments which had many subjects and much property to protect afforded a justification for the entry of a Russian force into that capital.

The two measures had no similarity, and no fair connection could be established between them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 981.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 116.)
My Lord,

Vienna, February 15, 1878.

I THIS morning sent Count Andrassy a copy of Sir Augustus Paget's telegram of the 13th instant, reporting that M. Depretis had informed him that he learned from the Italian Ambassador here that Count Zichy had only been instructed to apply for a firman for the entry of two Austrian ships into the Dardanelles "in case of need," and I pointed out how inconsistent this was to the application made by Count Beust for the interposition of Her Majesty's Government with that of Italy, with the view of obtaining the omission of those words from their instruction to their Ministers at Constantinople.

Baron Orczy has again assured me this afternoon that the instructions to Count Zichy had, as I had the honour of reporting to your Lordship, been positive and not discretionary. Count Zichy had, however, thought it his duty to represent to his Government, before acting upon them, that the application would probably be refused; but he was told in reply that the orders were nevertheless to be executed.

From a telegram dated yesterday, received from their Ambassador, the Austrian Government do not look upon the answer returned by the Porte to his application as an absolute or final refusal to give the firman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 982.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 118. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Vienna, February 15, 1878.

FOR the last few days Count Andrassy's time has been almost exclusively occupied by the arrangement of the matters which led to the late resignation of the Austrian Ministry connected with the Customs duties, and it has been impossible to see him.

I called this afternoon upon Baron Orczy, with whom the Russian Ambassador had just been having a conversation.

I learnt from him that M. Novikow, in speaking of the passage of the Dardanelles by Her Majesty's ships, had alluded, as though it were of considerable importance, to the fact of their not having entered the Bosphorus, but having anchored at the Princes's Islands, in the Sea of Marmora, which might perhaps influence the decision of his Government in regard to the measures they might consider it necessary to adopt.

M. Novikow also observed that if the other Powers had sent up their ships at the same time, his Government would not have regarded it in the same serious light as the step taken by Great Britain alone.

M. Novikow may possibly have been only expressing his own individual opinions, but I pointed out to Baron Orczy that the language of the Russian Ambassador, which he had just quoted, should make the Austrian Government perceive how desirable it was for them to lose no more time in ordering their vessels up to Constantinople.

The Russians had already been representing themselves to be acting with a perfect understanding with Austria, which, they said, was quite satisfied with the terms of the peace proposed to Turkey; and by not letting their flag be seen with ours in the Sea of Marmora, the Austrian Government was assisting the attempt to make it

appear that England was isolated, and thus encouraging the Porte to enter into a direct and close alliance with Russia.

Baron Orczy having said that, though vessels had been ordered from Pola to the Levant, the corvette stationed at Smyrna was the only one in the immediate neighbourhood of the Dardanelles, I urged upon him that the presence of even one ship with ours would have a moral effect which it was important to produce as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 983.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 120. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Vienna, February 18, 1878.

IN the course of conversation with Baron Orczy a few days ago, the name of Ahmet Vefyk Pasha, the present Turkish Prime Minister, happened to be mentioned, when, to my great surprise, his Excellency told me that General Ignatiew, on his passage through Vienna last year, after the breaking up of the Constantinople Conference, had spoken to him of Ahmed Vefyk as the only Turk fitted to be Grand Vizier.

Ahmed Vefyk had long been known to me as a man whose integrity was never called into question by his worst enemies; a man of great abilities and vast knowledge, but of so unpractical a nature that he had proved a failure in every post in which he had been tried, and so impatient of control that it used to be said that no office would suit him unless he were Grand Vizier, and that when he was Grand Vizier it would be necessary to make him Sultan.

He never was suspected of a leaning towards Russia; and if a year ago General Ignatiew pointed him out as the man who should be Grand Vizier, it was probably rather because he was convinced that Ahmet Vefyk's character would prevent him from allowing the development of any constitutional control over the Government, which the General dreaded, on account of the effect it would produce on the public in Russia, than from any expectation of finding him favourable to Russian policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 984.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby —(Received February 25.)

(No. 121.)
My Lord,

Vienna, February 18, 1878.

AFTER the Turkish Plenipotentiaries went to Kyzanlik to negotiate the Armistice, much surprise was caused by the length of time that elapsed in their receiving their final instructions from the Porte, which was accused of intentionally creating the delay.

I have been able to ascertain that these instructions, which, owing to the interruption of direct telegraphic communication, had to be forwarded by Vienna and Bucharest, and which left Constantinople on the 24th of December, reached Bucharest on the morning and Tirnova in the afternoon of the following day.

From Tirnova to Kyzanlik there is a Russian telegraph, and the short distance between the two places can moreover be performed in a day by courier, but the Turkish telegram was not delivered to the Plenipotentiaries for five days.

It is asserted, but of this I can give no proof, that the Russian telegraph clerks were directed to transpose the figures so as to make the message impossible to decipher and thus to ensure a further delay in the negotiations.

Every one being now convinced that, while the Russians were amusing the Powers with declarations of their readiness to have an Armistice, they were at the same time intentionally delaying the conclusion of it, so as to enable them to push forward,

the above mentioned device may hardly be worth reporting, except as evidence of the not over creditable shifts that were resorted to for the purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 985.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February 25.*)

(No. 129.) *Vienna, February* 18, 1878.

My Lord,

I SAW Count Andrassy to-day to ask for an answer to your Lordship's suggestion that he should urge upon the Russian Government the importance of an early meeting of the Conference, as promising the only satisfactory issue from the present political complication.

His Excellency at once declared himself ready to propose to the Russian and other Governments that it should be convened to meet at Baden-Baden, towards the end of the first week of March.

Prince Gortchakow had insisted so much that the meeting at which he wished to preside should be called a Congress, and not a Conference, that he had acceded to his desire, and had given it the more formal designation, which, however, would not render necessary the presence of all the Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

At the Congress of Paris of 1856, he remarked that Russia had been represented by two Plenipotentiaries, neither of whom were Ministers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 986.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 25.)

(No. 130.) *Vienna, February* 18, 1878.

My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY tells me that he is still urging the Porte to grant the Firman for the passage of the Dardanelles for two Austrian ships, but that the Sultan's Government still, in his opinion most unnecessarily and most unwisely, hesitates to give it, and points to the removal of the British fleet to Moudania Bay as evidence that there is no necessity for the presence of foreign vessels.

I remarked that Her Majesty's fleet is and will remain above the forts of the Straits, its position being practically the same as when it was at the Prince's Islands; and I owned myself unable to understand why, if the Firman was not granted, the Austrian ships should not come up in the same way as ours, under a protest from the Porte.

Count Andrassy said there was a marked difference between the passage of the Straits without a Firman of a powerful fleet like that of Her Majesty's or by two vessels, which are all that the Austrian Government have at present in the neighbourhood.

As he declared that he was not afraid of the ships being fired upon by the Turkish forts, and that he was indifferent to any protest by the Porte, I refused to admit the force of his argument.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 987.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 25.)

(No. 132. Secret.) *Vienna, February* 19, 1878.

My Lord,

I INFORMED your Lordship yesterday, by telegraph, that I did not believe Count Andrassy would take any measures whatever towards the mobilization of the Austrian army unless after a failure of the Conference, in the success of which he professes to feel confidence.

I expressed this opinion after a long conversation with Count Andrassy, in whom I remarked the evidence of an increasing sense of the risk to which Austria would be exposed in the event of a war with Russia.

He repeated, it is true, although with much less confidence than before, his conviction that the geographical position of Austria would enable her to threaten with complete destruction the whole Russian army now on Turkish soil, but, at the same time, he dwelt upon the length of frontier to be defended in a manner to lead me to infer an apprehension on his part that Russia might take the first sign of the mobilization of the Austrian army as an act of hostility, and might strike a serious blow against this country before its military preparations were sufficiently complete to meet it effectually.

On a former occasion Count Andrassy had spoken as if he believed that Russia would be induced to moderate her pretensions by the knowledge that Austria was prepared to put forth her strength if they were insisted upon; but yesterday he spoke of mobilization as being war, and he went on to point out the difference of the stakes for which Great Britain and Austria would respectively play in a war with Russia.

We should risk our fleet and any army we might send out; but if the fortune of war went adversely to Austria, the most capital interests of the Empire would be compromised; while, even though she were completely successful, the seeds of lasting evil would be sown.

A rupture with Russia in such a cause as that with which we have now to deal would create an excitement among the numerous Slav subjects of the Emperor which, even if it did not lead to overt acts of sympathy for the kindred race, would permanently add to the difficulty of governing the different nationalities of which the Empire is composed.

Count Andrassy professed the most perfect trust in the neutrality and perhaps good-will of Germany, and he says that he is not apprehensive of Italy, although that Power will require to be watched; but if, as I stated before, his language was not of the same confident nature as the last time he spoke upon the subject of mobilization, it is also to be remembered that his tone is apt to be much influenced by the particular train of thought which happens to be passing through his mind at the moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 988.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 25.)

(No. 135.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February* 20, 1878.

FROM your Lordship's telegram which has just reached me, it appears that Ahmed Vefyk Pasha had informed Mr. Layard that under the arrangements proposed by Russia, Bosnia will be so entirely cut off from the rest of the empire as to be lost to it.

If it is to be understood from this remark that the frontiers of Servia and Montenegro are to be so far advanced as to deprive Turkey of the territory at present lying between the two Principalities, and forming the communication between Bosnia and the southern portions of the empire, that province will be placed in a position of such entire isolation as will, in my opinion, make the annexation of it by Austria a matter of certainty, and perhaps of necessity, for the interests of this country.

I am satisfied that Count Andrassy is far from entertaining any wish to resort to such a measure, which would be very ill-looked upon in Hungary, where he is already extremely unpopular on account of his not having more actively opposed the Russian progress; but for the security of Dalmatia it appears to me impossible that Austria can allow the formation of a Bosnian province detached from Turkey, which must inevitably be ultimately absorbed into one of the neighbouring principalities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 989.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 136.)
Vienna, February 20, 1878.

My Lord,

I THIS morning expressed to your Lordship my conviction that, if Bosnia was to be cut off from the rest of the Turkish Empire in the manner which seems to be proposed by Russia, the annexation of that province by Austria was inevitable.

I have since seen Count Andrassy, who had been informed of the project, and whose language was precisely what I had anticipated.

He declared to me in the plainest language that if the project of isolating Bosnia in the manner proposed was carried out, Austria would unquestionably take possession of the province.

He did not mean that this would be done at once, but he would announce to the Conference his irrevocable determination, from which nothing would move him, to annex Bosnia rather than allow it to be formed into a centre of agitation for the populations of the Austrian coast provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 990.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 138.)
Vienna, February 20, 1878.

My Lord,

ACCORDING to your Lordship's, instructions I this morning asked Count Andrassy what he thought of the demand put forward by Russia for the expulsion of the Mussulman population of Bulgaria.

His Excellency could scarcely find words to express the indignation with which he was boiling over.

He said that it would be necessary to go back to Genbis Khan to find a parallel for such an atrocious act.

When Europe had been pressing the Porte to insure a complete toleration for all religious denominations, it was scarcely conceivable that any Government could seriously propose such an inhuman proceeding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 991.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 140.)
Vienna, February 20, 1878.

My Lord,

INFORMATION which has reached Count Andrassy that the new Bulgarian State which Russia proposes to create is to include Salonica and Janina makes him regard the project as more utterly inadmissible than he had before held it to be.

His views upon the creation of a great Slav State as affecting Austrian interests were already known, and the present proposal would be equally fatal to those of the Greeks.

What, indeed, would be the fate of the Greeks in the Provinces of Thessaly and Epirus if their position were still further aggravated by the arrival among them of the unfortunate Mussulman populations which it was proposed to expel from Bulgaria, and with a triumphant Slav Principality encroaching upon them?

Count Zichy has sent Count Andrassy the same report as Mr. Layard's to your Lordship, of the probability of Constantinople being occupied by the Russians in force if all their demands are not complied with by the first days of March.

Count Andrassy seemed inclined to think that the Porte should be encouraged to protest against such an uncalled-for proceeding, and to appeal to the Powers.

He considered also that if Russia should carry out her intention of occupying Constantinople in force, all the Powers should at once send up their vessels; but I was

not able to gather what particular result he expected from such a measure, though I said nothing to discourage it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 992.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 142. Confidential.)
Vienna, February 20, 1878.

My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY informs me that Prince Gortchakow has told M. Langenau, that as neither Prince Bismarck nor your Lordship meant to attend a Congress, he would himself also abstain from doing so.

I remarked that Prince Bismarck had never been expected to attend, and I doubted whether Prince Gortchakow had any intimation of your Lordship's intentions.

Count Andrassy showed himself far from pleased with the intelligence.

He had invited the Powers to take part in a Conference at Vienna, but in deference to Prince Gortchakow's wish, he had consented to propose instead that it should be a Congress, to be held at Baden-Baden, and now he was to be obliged to change the proposal again, and to revert to a Conference.

He had also been informed by the Austrian Ambassador at Rome, that M. Depretis was not likely to attend, but he hoped that if your Lordship could not take part in it, some other Cabinet Minister might represent Her Majesty' Government.

His Excellency evidently did not wish to be the only Cabinet Minister at the Conference; but upon my representing that, having himself convoked it, he stood in a different position from the others, he gave me to understand that he would in any case attend.

Count Andrassy presumes that it is now intended that Russia shall be represented by General Ignatiew, who must finish his present work at Constantinople, and probably have then to proceed to St. Petersburg for instructions, and his Excellency considers the whole proceeding as another device for deferring the meeting of the Conference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 993.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 143. Confidential.)
Vienna, February 20, 1878.

My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY expresses himself as entirely satisfied with the language used by Prince Bismarck in the German Chambers yesterday.

It was, he considers, impossible for a German minister to express himself with greater clearness, and he was convinced of the groundlessness of the suspicion that Russia was receiving encouragement from Berlin, either from the Emperor or from Prince Bismarck.

Count Andrassy mentioned confidentially that at a ball given by the Austrian Ambassador, at which the Emperor was present, a few days ago, His Majesty had told Count Karolgi that when the question of the Conference was brought forward, finding that Prince Gortchakow objected to its being held at Vienna, he had written a letter to the Emperor Alexander to remonstrate against such a difficulty being raised.

Prince Bismarck had, however, pointed out the inconvenience of the correspondence between the Sovereigns, declaring that in the present posture of affairs everything should be conducted by the Ministers of the three Empires, and his Majesty had accordingly not sent the letter.

According to Count Andrassy, the exchange of Imperial letters is for the present at an end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 994.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, February 25.)

(No. 10.)
Buda-Pesth, February 20, 1878.

Sir,

IN the Lower House of the Diet yesterday, the Prime Minister of Hungary, M. Tisza, replied to the interpellations on Eastern Affairs, of which notice had been given some time ago.

M. Tisza had just previously been to Vienna, to concert with Count Andrassy and with Prince Auersperg the exact tenour of the explanations to be given. As soon, therefore, as he had received telegraphic information that the Prince was about to make his statement to the Austrian Representatives, M. Tisza announced his readiness to answer the Hungarian interpellations.

His declarations were identical with those made at Vienna by the Austrian Premier, and were very well received by the House.

It is understood that the moment for making these simultaneous statements was chosen with reference to the date fixed by Prince Bismarck for his own official utterance on the same subject; and that it was considered advisable that the Austrian and Hungarian speeches should appear to be entirely independent of anything that the German Chancellor might say.

The tone of the "inspired" Hungarian journals, such as the "Pester Lloyd," "Hon" and "Ellenör," continues to be fiercely warlike.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 995.

Consul St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 10. Political.)
Ragusa, February 14, 1878.

My Lord,

IT is stated that the Austro-Hungarian iron-clad "Don Juan," now cruising on the Albanian coast, has received orders to proceed to Syra.

Naval officers inform me that other ships of war will probably soon follow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 996.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 117.)
Berlin, February 16, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE just sent your Lordship a telegram to say that I feel certain of the continued neutrality of the German Government in the event of war between England and Russia.

It is not believed here that Austria will mobilize before the Conference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 997.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

[Not to be published in Blue Book.]

(No. 119. Secret.)
Berlin, February 17, 1878.

My Lord,

PRINCE BISMARCK, whom I have just seen, has fully confirmed the telegram I sent your Lordship yesterday in regard to the continued neutrality of Germany.

I told his Highness that public feeling in England was growing stronger daily against Russia, whose unjustifiable proceedings would force a policy of action on Her

Majesty's Government, if the proposed Conference did not meet forthwith, and I therefore thought it most important that they should know his opinion of the present situation of affairs, and whether he intended to back up England and Austria in trying to modify the Russian plans, or Russia in enforcing them.

Prince Bismarck replied, that he would willingly answer my question on one condition, and that was, that what he was about to say should not appear in a Blue Book.

Her Majesty's Government, he went on to say, on my assenting to his request, could reckon with certainty on the neutrality of Germany if unhappily a conflict became inevitable between England and Russia, but he earnestly hoped that it might yet be averted by a Conference.

The Emperor, the Crown Prince, the Government, the Parliament, and the people of Germany wished for the friendship of England, and as long as he lived, he could promise that Germany would never support any other Power against England. On the other hand it could not be the interest of Germany to take part in a conflict about Eastern affairs.

Germany would therefore continue to be neutral; but if he said to other Powers what he now said to Her Majesty's Government, those other Powers might take advantage of it, and he thought it essential that they should not be in a position to reckon too freely on German neutrality.

About a year and a half ago the Czar wrote privately to ask the Emperor William whether he could count on his support if Austria should, later on, declare war to Russia.

The Emperor William, although willing as usual to agree to his nephew's wishes, this time made an exception, and before assenting, shewed him, Prince Bismarck, the Czar's letter, and he, Prince Bismarck, had then strongly urged the Emperor William simply to leave the question unanswered.

The three Emperors, Prince Bismarck said, were in frequent personal and private correspondence with each other, without the knowledge and behind the backs of their Ministers; and the difficulty of finding out what their Majesties were settling amongst each other was often very great. He had remonstrated, and never would cease to remonstrate, against a practice so fraught with danger to the public service.

I asked his Highness why their Majesties withheld their letters on public matters from their Ministers.

Prince Bismarck replied that the reason was because their Majesties wrote without reserve about their Ministers. He had but lately caught a glimpse of one of those Imperial private letters, in which the following sentence occurs:—

"Son Ministre n'est pas étranger à ces intrigues contre nous, &c., &c."

More he dared not tell me, but it was sufficient to show how inconvenient such a correspondence might become to the public service.

Reverting to the Conference, Prince Bismarck said that there was a suspicious tendency in Russia to delay the meeting of the Conference, which he could only attribute to the fact that Russia, elated by her successes, thought herself strong enough to accept a war with England, which would be popular in Russia at this moment of national over-excitement and overbearing conceit.

No doubt the possession of the fortresses on the Danube did greatly add to the strength of the Russian position in Turkey. On the other hand, he believed Count Andrassy to be sincerely and earnestly willing to support and act in concert with England, but he did not feel so sure that the Emperor of Austria would be willing to support Count Andrassy in a war against Russia.

Count Andrassy was acting under the influence of the Hungarians, whilst the Emperor was swayed by the Slavs of Austria.

Much, of course, must depend on the conditions England had to offer Austria, who would have to bear the brunt of the war by land. Besides which, it should be remembered that Austria was not at present as well prepared for war as Russia, and the immediate effect of war would be the loss to Austria of Gallicia, and perhaps of the Trentino, if the Italians behaved ill, which he would regret.

I asked Prince Bismarck whether he would not do more than regret, and whether it would not be in the interest of Germany to object and interfere.

Prince Bismarck replied that it would be more in the general interest of Germany to remain neutral, but of course there were certain contingencies to which Germany would object, as, for instance, the occupation of Moravia or Bohemia by Russian troops. Germany could never tolerate the presence of a Russian army at Brünn for any length of time, but happily such a contingency was not likely to arise.

All things considered, he could not personally see that much would be gained by a war, as the Russians were in possession of the Danube fortresses and of the sea-board, and that in reality the independence of the Sultan in Europe was virtually at an end.

I said I deeply regretted to find that Prince Bismarck's neutrality was practically more "benevolent" to Russia than to Austria. If it were the contrary, Russia could not persist in her present unjustifiable proceedings, and would have to yield before the moral influence of Germany, England, and Austria, united for the achievement of a fair, equitable, and pacific solution of the Eastern problem.

Prince Bismarck replied that I was wrong in supposing him to be more favourable to Russia than to Austria; the object of the strictly neutral position he wished to observe was to be able to give his support to a peaceful issue at the first favourable moment. At Gastein he had promised Count Andrassy that he would "befriend" him to the end, and that promise was sacred. Besides which the sympathies of the people of Germany were for Austria and in opposition to the Russian sympathies of the reigning families in Germany. The German Parliament, if consulted, would vote to a man for Austria. But it would be bad policy for Germany to quarrel without cause with so old and safe an ally as Russia, while the alliance of Austria depended in great measure on Count Andrassy's tenure of office. If Count Andrassy were succeeded by a Minister less friendly to Germany, the ties between the two countries might slacken.

While every effort was being made to keep Count Andrassy in office, it should not be forgotten that his position is no longer so strong as it was. Half his colleagues had resigned already once, and the other half had but a majority of eight in the Hungarian Chambers. Any day a hostile vote might compel him to resign, and his resignation might lead to considerable internal difficulties between Hungary and Austria.

He, Prince Bismarck, thought Count Andrassy had overlooked and missed the best opportunity of controlling the movements of Russia. In his place he, Prince Bismarck, would have occupied Servia when that country declared war for the second time to Turkey, and he would have done so, without quarrelling with Russia, in the name of peace and for the protection of Austrian interests. Russia could not then object, and Austria would now be in a strong position.

Austria had 16,000,000 of Servian subjects and not one Bulgarian subject, so he would have secured and neutralized Servia in the first instance, and left Bulgaria to be dealt with by the Conference.

He attached great importance to the early meeting of the Conference, and would urge the Russian Government to agree to the last Austrian proposal of meeting at Baden-Baden early in March.

Our conversation was interrupted, and I had to take my leave, but I hope to renew it some day next week, after Prince Bismarck has answered Herr von Bennigsen's "interpellations" in the Reichstag.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 998.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 122. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February 18, 1878.*

WITH reference to Mr. Layard's telegram of the 16th instant, Secret, stating that Prince Bismarck had prevailed upon the Italian Government not to send ships to Constantinople. I understand that the German Government have themselves decided not to ask for a Firman of passage for German ships to Constantinople, because Prince Reuss reports that no ship is required there at present, the population being quiet and orderly.

Besides which, it is thought here, that if the Russians should occupy Constantinople, they would be willing to assure the Protectorate of German subjects and interests for the German Government, as Prince Reuss has hitherto done for the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 999.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 124. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February 18, 1878.*

ON receiving your Lordship's telegram of the 16th instant, respecting the impression derived from a conversation with the Russian Ambassador, that an attempt is being made by the German Emperor to bring about improved relations between Austria and Russia, I endeavoured to find out privately whether any such step had been taken by His Majesty, and with what result.

I regret to say that hitherto I have only been able to ascertain that the Emperor has twice written privately to the Emperor of Austria, after receiving private letters from the Czar.

I shall do my utmost to ascertain what the nature of these communications has been.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 1000.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 128.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February 20, 1878.*

The speech delivered yesterday by Prince Bismarck in answer to the interpellation on the Eastern Question has already been telegraphed *in extenso* to the leading London newspapers.

The impression produced by it in Berlin has been excellent, and this morning's newspapers sum up his Highness' speech by saying that the policy of Germany should be to adhere to the old alliance with Russia, to protect the interests of Austria in supporting Count Andrassy, and to hold fast to the historical connection with England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 1001.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 130. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February 20, 1878.*

IN obedience to the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram of the 18th instant, marked Secret, I shall take the earliest opportunity of eliciting further statements from Prince Bismarck respecting Eastern Affairs.

At present his Highness is so much engaged, that I do not expect to see him before next week, when the Debate on the tobacco duties will be over.

Referring to your Lordship's above-mentioned telegram of the 18th, I am already in a position to add that the best informed authorities on German policy believe that Germany would desert Austria if ever the present alliance between the three Emperors should break up, and that the King of Italy would be more likely to join Germany and Russia in preference to Austria. Respecting the Emperor's private correspondence, which is a standing grievance and complaint of Prince Bismarck's, I should not be surprised if in the present case he pleaded ignorance respecting the latest exchange of letters between their Majesties for purposes of his own.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 1002.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 132. Confidential.)
Berlin, February 20, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 16th instant, inviting the German Government to urge at St. Petersburgh the early meeting of the Conference, I have been informed by the German Minister for Foreign Affairs that Count Münster has in consequence been instructed to state to your Lordship that the German Government agree to the last Vienna proposal that the Conference should meet at Baden-Baden at the beginning of March.

Since then, however, I am informed that Prince Gortchakow has telegraphed to Prince Bismarck that it will not be possible for him to attend the Conference as early in March as has been proposed, and he therefore suggests that some later date should be adopted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 1003.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

Corfu, February 21, 1878.

(Extract.)

ON her return voyage, the "Rapid," which this time carried a competent interpreter, made for Durazzo, but on arriving there it was found that my correspondent, a respectable merchant of the place, had just left for Berat on business. From his managing clerk, however, the interpreter learnt that tranquillity prevailed in the country round, and that only one case of outrage had occurred, of which a Beshi-Bazouk was the author.

At Avlona the vessel only stopped an hour and a-half, sufficient to enable the interpreter to land and call on the Greek Vice-Consul, who assured me that all was quiet in the place, thanks to the conciliatory conduct of the Kaimakam, but that the Pasha was a savage, by which I understand he is just the fit man to deal with the Vice-Consul. There is too much reason to fear that the tranquillity of that part of the country will not remain long undisturbed; for—

The Greek steamer, which arrived unexpectedly and without previous warning from the Piræus on the night of Monday, the 18th instant, brought with her and landed from 80 to 100 Albanians, evidently, from their mien and getting up, fighting-men. Their Chiefs, as reported to me on tolerably good authority, had interviews with the leaders of the "Patriotic Committee," the result of all which was that last night three boat-loads of them left for the north, well supplied with money, arms, and ammunition; their destination Chimara.

We shall soon know what are the real objects of the expedition, and what its results, which I shall not fail to report in due time.

No. 1004.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 205.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, February 24, 1878.

ABOUT 1,500 Russian troops, without artillery, have occupied San Stefano with Grand Duke Nicholas; and 10,000 infantry, with several batteries of artillery, have passed the neutral zone and are at Kutchuk Tchekmedje. Left of Turkish army has fallen back upon Makri-Keui, three miles from Constantinople, whence powder manufactory has been removed.

No. 1005.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 206.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, February 25, 1878.

THERE is a very strong impression among persons generally well informed that a secret Treaty has been or is about to be concluded between Russia and Turkey defensive and offensive, and mainly directed against England and Austria. I will do my best to find out whether this is so, but I think that it is my duty to warn Her Majesty's Government in time.

No. 1006.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, February 25, 1878.

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS telegraphs as follows, dated San Stephano, 24th February, 4 A.M.:—

"I arrived here by rail this morning with consent of Sultan; Preobrajensky regiment, Cossacks, and a company of escort arrive here to-day with me. Turks have prepared necessary quarters. I was received at station by Greek clergy, Raouf and Mehemet Ali Pashas. All goes well; sanitary state of our troops and their appearance excellent.

No. 1007.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 50. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, February 25, 1878.

I LEARN from a private and confidential but authentic source that Prince Gortchakow has communicated to Powers the Memorandum of the 21st instant your Lordship gave to Count Schouvaloff, as also his reply, which, I am told, is to the following effect:—

"That England was free to take what course she pleased, but that it would make no difference in the decisions of the Imperial Government."

No. 1008.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 51. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, February 25, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of 23rd, I may report that no special activity is apparent at Cronstadt.

Baltic (fleet*), composed of vessels reported by Captain Gremell, are dismantled for winter. Navigation will not probably be open before May.

Addition of two light armour-plated frigates of "Inconstant" type called "Ulnin" and "General Admiral" (*sic*), as also sloop "Djigit," could be ready this summer if specially required, otherwise will probably not be completed this year.

Black Sea fleet is, I believe, merely composed of two Popoffkas and some small steamers provisionally armed.

No. 1009.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, February 25, 1878.

SINCE addressing to me despatch No. 161 of February 20, your Lordship will have received my despatch No. 237 of February 19.

* Group omitted.

Grand Duke Nicholas having expressed his regret, and ordered a strict inquiry and punishment of those who ill-treated English doctors, is it desirable that I should again revert to the subject by communicating inclosure in your despatch No. 161? Their publication by the press would be equally effective.

No. 1010.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 1. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, February 25, 1878.*

REPLY to your Lordship's telegram of the 18th instant.

I have endeavoured to elicit further statements from Prince Bismarck.

He confirmed generally his former statements, but thought private correspondence of the three Emperors was certain to lead to improved relations between Austria and Russia, and that the Emperor of Austria would come to some agreement rather than quarrel with Emperor of Russia about the new order of things in Turkey.

He also thinks both France and Italy more inclined to make concessions than to quarrel between Russia.

He thinks that Russia feels so much elated at strength of her present position that she postpones the Conference by subterfuges, so as to gain time to prepare in case England should go to war.

Nevertheless he has again urged moderation, and the early meeting of the Conference on the Russian Government.

No. 1011.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 25, 1878.*

NOTHING is known here of a suggestion published in a telegram from St. Petersburgh, that if the Conference were held at Berlin the presence of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs would be facilitated.

No. 1012.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 25, 1878.*

GREEK Chargé d'Affaires has communicated telegram from Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs of 20th instant, stating that, in answer to statement as to a renewed Hellenic invasion of Turkey, he had informed Turkish Minister at Athens that no Greek soldier had crossed the frontier, and that the Government had given orders for the punishment of desertion. With regard to the volunteers orders had also been given to prevent the assembling of armed bands, and their departure from Greek territory, but the line of frontier was long, and difficult to guard, and the vigilance of the authorities might be evaded, as in the case of Epirote volunteers who had crossed secretly in the direction of Arta, and who had probably given rise to the report.

No. 1013.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General Eldridge.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 25, 1878.*

NEWSPAPER reports of alarm and danger caused by arrival of Circassian emigrants. Report as to this.

No. 1014.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 290.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 25, 1878.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying copy of a telegram which has been communicated to me by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in this country.[a]

As your Excellency will perceive, it is from the Greek Foreign Minister, who reaffirms that the Greek Government are doing all in their power to maintain a strict neutrality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1015.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, February 26.)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le 13 Février, 1878.*

LES nouvelles qui m'arrivent de l'île de Crète constatent la propagation du mouvement insurrectionnel qui avait commencé par la protestation des populations Chrétiennes contre l'Administration Ottomane.

La conduite des autorités locales, notamment celle de Sami-ch Pacha, qui avait remplacé pendant quelques jours le nouveau Gouverneur Civil de l'île, durant l'absence de celui-ci à Ere (lieu de réunion de l'Assemblée Générale des Crétois), loin de calmer les esprits, les a aigris au contraire. Le Gouverneur provisoire ayant recruté un millier d'Ottomans fanatiques parmi la populace de l'île, en fit des gardiens de l'ordre public et les distribua aux alentours du fort de la Canée en leur confiant la sécurité du pays. Les Bachi-Bazouks de fabrication nouvelle occupèrent toutes les routes menant à la ville, et se mirent non-seulement à arrêter les passants pour les dévaliser, mais à commettre aussi tout acte de brigandage sur les malheureux Chrétiens qui leur tombaient sous la main.

Adossidès Pacha promet, après son retour, et sur les représentations du Consul Anglais, de faire désarmer cette bande de bandits officiels, mais rien n'en fut. Quelques jours même après les assurances du nouveau Gouvernement on vit une fraîche troupe d'Arabes se diriger vers l'arsenal pour s'y pourvoir d'armes.

Les actes de brigandage commis par les gardiens improvisés de la sécurité publique obligèrent les villageois des alentours de prendre le chemin des montagnes. Quelques uns d'entre eux voulurent transporter au moins leur mobilier de la ville, et l'y mettre en sûreté. L'administration défendit cette aménagement aux Chrétiens, tandis qu'elle le permettait dans les mêmes circonstances aux Ottomans.

Le Consul du Roi dût protester contre cette flagrante partialité de l'autorité; mais sa protestation n'eut aucun effet. Le Gouverneur de l'île répondit que la mesure prohibitoire était générale, et qu'il ne pouvait excepter personne. Il fit même l'étonné en entendant que la prohibition ne frappait en réalité que les populations Chrétiennes, et que les Ottomans aménageaient sans aucun empêchement.

M. Logothétis m'écrit que, vis-à-vis des mesures aussi arbitraires, il se trouve dans l'impossibilité de prêter aucun secours à la population Hellénique, qui implore sa protection.

Ce qui se passe à Rethyme est le pendant des actes de brigandage commis aux alentours de la Canée. Les Ottomans sortent de la ville, se mettent en embuscade sur les chemins et dévalisent les Chrétiens qui passent.

A Fotinou ils dévalisèrent la semaine passée sept paysans; un autre, nommé Nicolas Vallegi, fut encore plus malheureux; après avoir été dévalisé il fut aussi blessé au cou. Le 24 Janvier un marchand fut dévalisé, il fut aussi blessé et maltraité dans les rues mêmes de la ville.

Ces faits ont dû naturellement accélérer l'explosion de l'insurrection, qui couvait depuis longtemps, amener une prise d'armes générale et propager rapidement le mouvement insurrectionnel.

Ainsi la garnison de Spakia, leur Gouverneur, et tous les autres fonctionnaires et employés du district, furent invités, la semaine passée, de quitter leur poste; embarqués sur un vaisseau de guerre ils furent transportés à la Canée.

[a] No. 954.

A Cerilli, du district d'Alikiano, le vieux Chef de partisans Mavrogénni, a la tête de 600 hommes, proclama, il y a dix jours, l'union avec la Grèce.

Deux jours après il était suivi par le Chef de Kissamo, A. Scalidès, lequel, entouré de Pappadogamaki, de Parthénios, de Péridès, et 1,500 combattants, arbora le drapeau national, après une bénédiction d'armes solennelle, et occupa des positions favorables pour repousser toute attaque des Ottomans consignés dans les forts.

A Lakki des Cydonies les Chefs Hadji Michali, Crokidas, et autres procédèrent à une bénédiction d'armes pareille, et proclamèrent l'union avec la Grèce.

Vous trouverez ici-jointe, en traduction, la proclamation de Hadji Michali.

A Selino les Chefs Criuri, Giorgakaki, et le reste, imitèrent l'exemple des Lakkiotes. Ils constituèrent un Comité Administratif, votèrent en même temps l'abolition du pouvoir Ottoman, et se proposent de communiquer leur décision aux Consuls Européens et à l'Assemblée Générale.

Le 30 Janvier tous les villages arborèrent le drapeau Hellénique. Une partie de leurs représentants se sont rendus à Argyroupoli, où ils seront bientôt rejoints par ceux qui restent à Fré, pour pourvoir de commun accord à l'administration des provinces.

M. Logothéti m'écrit que la conduite de toutes ces troupes armées, et des Chrétiens en générale vis-à-vis leurs concitoyens Ottomans, est exemplaire, et empreinte de sentiments humanitaires et conciliants. Tandis que, dernièrement encore, un des partisans du Chef Mylonaki, égaré à Apocorona et tombé entre les mains des soldats Ottomans, subit les martyrs les plus atroces, et expira dans les plus atroces souffrances, après avoir eu les mains, la langue, et le nez coupés, et les yeux arrachés; les insurgés, au contraire, au lieu d'user de représailles, se comportent vis-à-vis des Ottomans en véritables concitoyens.

Cette conduite exemplaire des Chrétiens est reconnue par les Ottomans même les plus notables, ainsi que par les Consuls étrangers.

Ce qui précède vous est communiqué à titre de renseignement. Vous pouvez en faire l'usage qui vous paraîtrait nécessaire.

P.S.—J'apprends à l'instant que l'artillerie Ottomane est sortie du fort de la Canée. Il paraît que les Chrétiens ont occupé des positions voisines et attaqué Vamos.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) THEODORE P. DELYANNI.

No. 1016.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, February 26.*)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le $\frac{13}{25}$ Février*, 1878.

LES suites funestes du rappel des troupes Royales ne se sont pas malheureusement fait attendre longtemps dans les provinces Grecques limitrophes de l'Empire Ottoman. Elles sont, au contraire, venues assez tôt pour justifier les craintes, qui avaient dictées au Gouvernement du Roi la mesure de l'occupation provisoire de ces provinces.

Quoique je vous ai déjà transmis par le télégraphe un résumé succinct des actes de férocité dont les habitants de Thessalie viennent d'être les victimes, avant et après le départ de nos troupes, je me fais pourtant un triste devoir de vous en donner, par la présente, les détails, en vous priant de les communiquer à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Le $\frac{11}{23}$ Janvier, une bande, assez nombreuse, d'Albanais Guégues envahirent un moulin du village de Simikli et se saisirent des trois meuniers qui s'y trouvaient. L'un de ces malheureux a eu la tête tranchée. L'autre fut enduit de pétrole et brûlé vif. Le troisième fut mis en pièces à coups de yatagan.

Le 20 Janvier (1 Février) une autre bande de Guégues envahit un moulin du village de Maturanga, s'empara des meuniers et leurs fit subir les plus horribles tortures, en les échaudant avec de l'huile bouillante.

Ces faits, d'une atrocité inouie, et d'autres encore, dont les détails me manquent, étaient bien de nature à justifier la panique qui s'empara des populations Grecques de la Thessalie aussitôt après le départ de nos troupes. Ainsi tous les habitants des villages Chrétiens se mirent à émigrer en tout hâte, abandonnant tout leurs biens à la merci des hordes Guégues et Circassiennes. Malgré toutes les assurances du Commandant-en-Chef, M. Soutzo, que les Grandes Puissances, qui avaient insisté auprès du Gouvernement Hellénique pour faire rappeler ses troupes, sauvegarderaient leur vie et leurs biens et ne les laisseraient point à la merci de l'acharnement fanatique des Guégues, les populations affolées de peur prenaient la fuite. Leur départ était si précipité, que nos soldats trouvèrent dans la journée du 27 Janvier, des enfants nouveau nés gisant abandonnés au milieu de chemin.

De nouveaux actes de barbarie ont prouvé que la crainte de ces malheureux n'était point exagérée.

Le 31 Janvier (12 Février) aussitôt après le départ des troupes Royales, le village Darchani, à peine évacué par nos soldats, fut envahi par les Guégues. Le prêtre du village fut impitoyablement égorgé, les habitants eurent le temps de prendre la fuite et de se refugier sur le sol Hellénique.

Les victimes du village de Cartzomagoula, près de Carditza, attaqué le même jour par les bandes irrégulières Ottomanes, se comptent par familles entières massacrées sans défense et sans quartier.

Le même sort est assurément réservé à tous les autres habitants des villages Chrétiens de la Thessalie et de l'Epire. Il y a quelque jours à peine le Gouverneur Militaire d'Arta, ayant convoqué les notables de la ville, leur déclare péremptoirement, qu'il n'hésiterait point à ordonner le massacre général des Chrétiens, aussitôt que les troupes Grecques auraient franchi la frontière.

Tout ce qui précède est officiellement constaté. Ce sont des faits trop éloquents dans leur horrible simplicité pour avoir besoin d'être relevés ou commentés.

Le Gouvernement Royal croit protester de toutes ses forces contre ces actes de brigandage, et en appeler à l'humanité et à la justice des Cabinets Européens, dans la ferme conviction qu'ils ne voudront point permettre la continuation de pareilles horreurs qui font une tâche à la civilisation Européenne.

Je vous prie de bien vouloir donner lecture de la présente à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) THEODORE P. DELYANNI.

No. 1017.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, February 26.*)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le $\frac{14}{26}$ Février*, 1878.

ME référant à ma dépêche que je vous fais parvenir aujourd'hui, concernant les excès commis par les bandes irrégulières Ottomanes en Thessalie, je vous communique ci-après des faits nouveaux et de la même nature qui parviennent à l'instant même à ma connaissance.

Jeudi passé, 20 Janvier, v.s., le lendemain de la retraite des troupes Royales de Domoko, un assez grand nombre d'habitants du village Grec de Scarnitza, tout près de Domoko, poursuivis jusqu'à la ligne frontière par une bande armée de Guégues, se réfugièrent sur le sol Hellénique, gagnèrent Lamie et se rendirent à la Préfecture, où ils déposèrent ce qui suit:—

Le jour de Dimanche, aussitôt après la rentrée des troupes, une foule de Guégues se concentre tout près de leur village, les habitants, menacés et ayant tout lieu de craindre une attaque, se réfugièrent à Domoko pour demander protection au Commandant Militaire Ottoman. Malheureusement celui-ci fit fermer les portes de la forteresse, en défendit la sortie aux troupes régulières et laissa les réfugiés à la merci des Guégues et des Circassiens qui se répandirent aussitôt dans la plaine. Les paysans s'enfuirent en tout hâte au village, en firent sortir leurs familles, et prirent le chemin de la montagne pour gagner le village Ombriaki, situé tout près de la ligne frontière. Ils y touchaient déjà, lorsqu'ils furent rattrapés et chargés par leurs persécuteurs. Les femmes et les enfants purent entrer sous la fusillade des Guégues dans les maisons d'Ombriaki; les hommes poursuivis toujours et fusillés par les Guégues, gagnèrent l'Orthrys, et arrivèrent hors d'haleine à Lamie, ignorant le sort de leurs malheureuses familles réfugiées à Ombraki.

Le soir du même jour leur village, Scarnitza, devenait la proie des flammes.

2. Le village Carelzali, tout près de Persales, fut envahi le Samedi, 28 Janvier, v.s., par les Guégues. Les malfaiteurs égorgèrent deux frères, boulangers, tranchèrent les têtes, et les portèrent en pompe au bout de piques à Domoko.

3. Douze notables du village Darchani, au sud de Domoko, furent saisis et menés de force à ce dernier village, où ils seraient égorgés, à en croire la rumeur publique.

4. Le prêtre de Scarnitza fut conduit aussi de force et presque mourant à

ALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Domoko, tiré tout le long du chemin par la barbe et fustigé par une bande de Guégues. On ignore son sort.

5. Dans la ville même de Domoko un épicier, nommé Vassilako, fut empalé et sa boutique mise à sac par les soldats irréguliers.

Je vous prie de bien vouloir communiquer aussi ces faits à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) THEODORE P. DELYANNI.

No. 1018.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, February 26.*)

Athènes, le 14 Février, 1878.

Monsieur,

JE m'empresse de vous faire parvenir, en traduction ci-incluse, trois pièces relatives à l'insurrection de la Thessalie, dont je vous autorise à faire l'usage que vous jugerez nécessaire et utile aux intérêts du pays.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) TH. DELYANNI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1018.

Decree of the Insurrectionary Committee at Phere.

(Traduction.)

LA Commission des Insurgés de Phérès, institué par le peuple souverain, qui par droit d'insurrection vient de reprendre sa souveraineté, s'étant réunie à Paliouri, aujourd'hui le 25 Janvier de l'année 1878, vote et promulgue le Décret suivant, qui devra être communiqué en copie au Gouverneur Militaire de Volo, en sa qualité de représentant du Gouvernement Ottoman, ainsi qu'aux Représentants des Puissances étrangères :—

1. *Décret.*

La domination du Sultan Abdul-Hamid et de ses successeurs est abolie.

Le Sultan Abdul-Hamid est déclaré déchu, et le Roi des Hellènes, George I, est proclamé notre Roi.

L'union indissoluble de cette province avec notre mère patrie la Grèce est proclamée.

Le Chef des Insurgés, L. Platoutza, est chargé de l'exécution des dispositions du présent Décret.

Fait à Paliouri le 25 Janvier, 1878.

Le Président de la Commission,

(Signé) ACHILLI TACOUSSI.

Les Membres,

[Onze signatures.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 1018.

The Chief of the Insurrection at Pelion to the European Consuls.

(Traduction.)

Le Chef de l'Insurrection de Pelion à MM. les Consuls d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Italie, d'Angleterre, de la République Française, et de Sa Majesté le Roi des Hellènes (priés de donner communication de la présente à MM. leurs Collègues).

Portaria, le 27 Janvier, 1878.

MM. les Consuls,

J'AI reçu avec beaucoup de plaisir la communication que vous aviez chargé le Révérend Père Papa Georgi de me faire. En réponse je n'ai qu'à répéter ce qui est contenu dans ma Proclamation de la prise d'armes.

Je descends d'une des plus anciennes et notables familles du pays, de la famille

Basdekis. Je suis revenu à ma patrie pour co-opérer à la réalisation des vœux séculaires de nos ancêtres, ce qui est la délivrance de ma patrie du plus tyrannique de jougs. Mon but n'est pas de porter atteinte à la vie ni aux biens des individus, à quelque religion qu'ils appartiennent. Hellène d'origine et de sentiment c'est de mon propre intérêt de protéger les Ottomans, même en exposant ma vie. J'ai aboli, c'est vrai, les municipalités (Demogerontics) établis par les autorités Ottomanes; mais j'y ai substitué des officiers de police chargés de vaquer au maintien de l'ordre et de la sécurité publique. Au village de Lechonia j'ai même préposé à la police un Ottoman, le brave Achmed Chamchoum. Je lui ai enjoint d'engager ses coreligionnaires et nos concitoyens de rentrer dans leurs foyers en leur donnant une parole de soldat, que leur vie, leur honneur et leurs biens seraient à l'abri de toute attaque. Je suis même prêt à mettre à sa disposition dans ce but un petit détachement, qui pourrait d'ailleurs être remplacé par une garde composée de Chrétiens et d'Ottomans. A peine averti qu'un des Chrétiens avait blessé sans raison un des Guégues, je l'ai fait arrêter et traduire devant un Conseil de Guerre.

J'ai l'honneur de vous assurer aussi que je n'épargnerai rien afin de maintenir l'ordre et la sécurité pour tous, sans distinction de race et de religion. Je n'userai de force que contre les organes de l'autorité Ottomane qui attaqueraient mes soldats ou les familles sans appui de nos villages. Je ne m'approcherai point de la ville ou des alentours de Volo, afin de sauvegarder de mon mieux les intérêts Européens.

Je me fais un triste devoir de porter à votre connaissance que l'autorité Ottomane, toujours fidèle à ses habitudes barbares, a défendu l'exportation de céréals de Volo, afin d'affamer les familles faibles et innocentes. Je crois que ce serait une œuvre d'humanité de laisser l'exportation libre; je ne plaide pas ma cause; mes soldats sont abondamment provisionnés.

En répétant mon assurance, que je me tiendrai loin de Volo, je vous prie d'agréer, &c.

Le Chef de l'Insurrection de Pélion,

(Signé) Z. BASDEKIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1018.

Decree.

(Traduction.)

Au nom de la nation, les Représentants du Pélion,

APRES une servitude de quatre siècles sous le joug le plus tyrannique et le plus barbare, notre province arbora, de son propre et libre mouvement, le drapeau de la croix et proclama solennellement sa liberté et son union avec la mère patrie.

En conséquence, il est décrété et proclamé, en son nom :

1. L'abolition de la domination barbare Ottomane, et l'union avec notre mère patrie la Grèce, sous le sceptre de Sa Majesté le Roi des Hellènes George I et de ses successeurs.

2. La constitution d'un Gouvernement Provisoire lequel, assisté d'une représentation locale, aura à gouverner la province, jusqu'au jour de la réalisation de nos vœux, c'est-à-dire l'union de notre pays avec la mère Grèce. Le Gouvernement Provisoire est formé des patriotes J. Cassaveti, Z. Basdequi, Const. Garofi, T. Hadji Kitili, Const. Sakellarides, Const. Contzamani, Ev. Stamouli, Ar. Boyattji, George Nikolane, Const. Zamanoudi, Jean Lanares, et Nicolas Vandi.

Vive la nation! Vive la patrie! !

Fait à Portaria le 27 du mois de Janvier de l'an de grace 1878.

Les Représentants de Pélion,

[Quarante-sept signatures.]

No. 1019.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February 26.*)

(No. 207.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 25*, 1878.

RUSSIANS are, according to the Porte, throwing difficulties in way of signature of Peace in order to gain time. The question of surrender of Turkish iron-clads is not yet settled, Russians still demanding them. To-day Grand Duke endeavoured to induce

FO
BY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Turks to allow Russian troops to occupy barracks of Daoud Pasha, which are close to the city walls, but they refused. Porte is convinced that Russians are endeavouring to find some pretext to enter Constantinople.

No. 1020.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 269.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 25, 1878.*

THERE are two iron-clads at Constantinople, "Messoudea" and "Osmanea" frigates.

At Crete "Oranie," "Asirtefek," frigates, and (?) two iron-clad corvettes.

At Volo, one frigate and one monitor.

At Batoum, two corvettes.

At Varna the same.

At Antivari one frigate, and at Smyrna one corvette, all iron-clads.

No. 1021.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 271.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 26, 1878.*

I AM making inquiries with regard to Poles said to have been put to death by Russians, but it is difficult to obtain satisfactory evidence, and it would be better not to present despatch on subject to Parliament until I can send report, which is being prepared.

No. 1022.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, February 26, 1878.*

NO decision has yet been come to regarding desire intimated by Emperor to defray travelling expenses of Shah through Russia. Emperor specially desires that the Shah, in Russia, shall travel as a Sovereign, and has offered him the Hermitage for residence during stay at St. Petersburgh. If this is accepted, Shah will, I am informed, go to St. Petersburgh first. I will telegraph again as soon as decision is come to.

No. 1023.

Mr. Fawcett to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February 25, 1878.*

NUMBER of British subjects who registered in 1876 was 2,204; in 1877, 2,111; in 1878, 2,620: in each year 800 at least are not registered.

No. 1024.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 2. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, February 26, 1878.*

I AM told that Prince Bismarck is exerting his influence on the French Government and on the Italian Government to get them to acquiesce in the position Russia has acquired in Turkey, and to dissuade England from interfering for the present.

He is said to think that Austria, by taking possession of Bosnia and Servia, could safely agree to formation of Bulgarian State proposed by Russia.

No. 1025.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 3. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, February 26, 1878.*

PRINCE BISMARCK has received from Prince Gortchakow, in reply to his message recommending moderation and the early meeting of the Conference, an evasive answer, from which he concludes that Russian Government wish to back out of Conference altogether.

No. 1026.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Beyrout, February 26, 1878.*

REPLY to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, about 1,000 Circassians and Mussulman refugees arrived here a fortnight ago, and are being sent to Damascus. I did not think circumstance worth reporting, as all was quiet. Last week about 1,500 refugees were landed at Acre for Nablous. I have not heard of any disturbance, and believe alarm imaginary.

No. 1027.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 26, 1878, 4 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 53, I approve your abstaining from communicating the further papers relative to the case of the English doctors under the circumstances.

No. 1028.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 26, 1878.*

NOTHING has been received here from Constantinople in reference to suspected Offensive and Defensive Treaty between Russia and Turkey, as mentioned by Mr. Layard; but the Austrian Government are evidently not easy on the subject.

No. 1029.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 26, 1878.*

THE Delegations will be called about the 7th March.

Count Andrassy says that he is well satisfied with the disposition of the members he has spoken to about a proposal to intrust him with special financial powers.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 1030.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February 26.*)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, February 26, 1878.

WITH reference to Lord Odo Russell's secret telegram of yesterday No. 1, I am very positively assured that there is no private correspondence going on between the Austrian Emperor and the Emperor of Russia, and that the former does not write to the Czar without the knowledge of Count Andrassy.

No. 1031.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February 26.*)

(Telegraphic.)

Galatz, February 26, 1878.

BRITISH Vice-Consul at Ibraila reports ten waggons containing torpedoes passed by rail on the morning of the 24th instant.

No. 1033.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General Eldridge.

(No. 2. Political.)

Foreign Office, February 26, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 11, Political, of the 4th instant, relative to the Bulgarian prisoners who have been sent to Acre; and whilst expressing to you my approval of your proceedings, I have to instruct you to convey to Mr. Abela the acknowledgments of Her Majesty's Government for his exertions on behalf of these unfortunate men.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1034.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February 27.*)

(No. 1. Political.)

Damascus, February 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting a collision, with loss of life, between Government troops and Druzes in the district of Merj Ayoun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 1034.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Layard.

Damascus, February 6, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that a collision, involving much loss of life, occurred on the 21st ultimo at Mutelli, a village of the district of Merj

Ayoun, south-west of Mount Hermon, between Government troops and Druzes, under the following circumstances:—

Ali Haggiar, the Druze Chief of the village, having lately committed certain petty outrages in his neighbourhood, defying the local authorities and sheltering runaway conscripts, complaints were made to Izzet Pasha, the Commander-in-chief and Acting Vali here, who sent all his available troops (about two companies of Mustaphis) to arrest him, requesting also the Governor of the Lebanon to send an additional armed force to prevent escape to the neighbouring territory of Lebanon. This was done, and on the 21st ultimo a force of about 700 men belonging to the vilayet and to the Lebanon surrounded the village and summoned the Chief to give himself up. The people denied he was there; and upon the officer in command stating he should search the village, the Chief and many of the villagers endeavoured to escape towards Hermon. When they got outside the village fire was opened upon them by the troops of the vilayet, and about thirty were killed and wounded. Two or three on the side of the soldiers are also said to have been wounded. It having been reported that the Scheikh, who escaped in the mêlée, had fled to Mejdel Eshams, a strong Druze village south-east of Hermon, twelve hours from Damascus, the Mushir sent the Chief of the Police with 100 troopers and Selim Bek Shems (a Druze Sheikh of Hasbeya who happened to be in Damascus) to the place to demand him. They returned, however, without being able to find him, bringing with them nine of the notables of the village in order to declare personally to the Mushir that they knew nothing about the matter. They have since gone home. Ali Haggiar seems, however, to have come secretly to Damascus, and is now said to be in the Hauran among his co-religionists. I am told that three days ago a strong deputation of the Druze Chiefs of the Lebanon, with the Druze Caimakam of the Shouf, arrived at Hasbeya, at the joint request of the Mushir and Rustem Pasha, to endeavour to arrange amicably the delivery of the fugitive to the authorities.

The Druzes are much incensed at what they deem the slaughter of so many innocent persons, and aver that they would have delivered up the man to the authorities had such a request been made to them. This, however, I very much doubt; as also the readiness of the Hauran Druzes, after what has passed, to surrender a fugitive co-religionist who has sought an asylum with them into the hands of a Government which they regard with such increased enmity.

What much augments the bitterness of the situation among the people is the severe blow to their national pride in this virtual wrecking of their quasi-independence, and the sudden fall from the high position always tacitly maintained, but lately, since the outbreak of the Russian War, somewhat arrogantly demonstrated by them.

They are well aware that the Government only awaits a fitting time and opportunity to attempt (as they have often done before) to assimilate them by force of arms to the rest of the land in the matters of conscription and taxation; and they know also that courage and the geographical difficulties of their country would avail them but little against the new arms of precision now in the hands of the Turkish soldiery.

They seem, therefore, naturally both to push matters to extremities; and the authorities appear to entertain, for the present at least, a similar view.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 1035.

Consul-General Fawcett to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February 27.*)

(Confidential.)

Constantinople, February 13, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a statement made on oath by Dr. A. Leslie, of the National Aid Society, and by Mr. Bell, correspondent of the "Illustrated London News," as to the treatment of prisoners of war, of sick and wounded Turkish soldiers, and also of the civil population of Roumelia, by the Russian troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HY. FAWCETT.

ALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Inclosure in No. 1035.

Deposition of Dr. A. Leslie.

ON the 2nd January, at Stryglia, we saw Turkish wounded soldiers pushed, dragged about, kicked and whipped by Russian soldiers. The Turkish wounded and sick soldiers, amongst whom there were many frost-bitten, were left during the night in open sheds, the thermometer marking 10 degrees below zero. The Russian dressers handled the Turkish wounded in a rough way.

On 1st January, Dr. Leslie saw a Turkish soldier, on the road to Tashkessen, lying in the snow, moaning. Although thousands of Russian troops with their officers were passing by, not one of them offered any assistance to the suffering Turkish soldier.

On the 13th January, in the prison at Orkhanié, we saw two Turkish soldiers sick. One of them died during the night; half an hour before his death he was struck, and the day previous, he had been struck, pushed, and treated with the greatest brutality. The details of the ill-treatment and death of this man are unfit for publication.

On January 14th the surviving Turkish soldier was dragged along the main street of Orkhanié; he was unable to walk. This man told us that he had received neither money nor rations, and that consequently he was dying from starvation. He was certainly dying from inanition, as his companion had.

In Souenli, on February 1st, we saw a Turkish woman lying dead in the streets.

At Tirnova, on the same day, we saw an aged Turkish woman mutilated.

On January 25th, between Shekerli and Kyzanlik, we saw Turkish soldiers mutilated; the mutilation being a mark of the cross on the breast, cut in the flesh with a hatchet.

On February 2nd, near Hermenli, we saw a Turkish woman and her child killed.

In Adrianople, on the same day, we saw a Cossack, without any provocation, strike and kick an aged Turkish refugee. There were at Adrianople, confined in sheds, Turkish refugees, men and women, who told us that they had received no food for three days. They were treated not as prisoners of war, but as felons.

(Signed) ARMAND LESLIE, *Principal Medical Officer of the National Aid Society.*
JOSEPH BELL, *of the "Illustrated London News."*

Sworn before me, Her Majesty's Judge, Supreme Court, February 13, 1878.
(Signed) J. H. FAWCETT.

No. 1036.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 240.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose to your Lordship herewith a semi-official article from this day's "Agence Russe," denying, as utterly untrue, the telegraphic intelligence reported by the foreign press, that the Russian Government had demanded the expulsion of all Mussulmans from Bulgaria.

It states that Russia, where the greatest tolerance exists, and where thousands of Mussulmans live peaceably under her rule, has instituted the principle of perfect equality between the Mussulman and Christian population of Bulgaria, where now, no longer excited against each other by the Turkish authorities, they live together in perfect security, happy in their deliverance from Turkish functionaries, from Turkish troops, from Bashi-Bazouks, and Circassians—the curse equally fatal to Mussulmans and Christians, from which Russia wishes to deliver Bulgaria for ever.

Experience has led me to distrust Russian humanitarian principles. With regard, therefore, to this article, I can only say, "Credat Judæus apella non ego."

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 1036.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

LA nouvelle télégraphique donnée par la presse étrangère que le Gouvernement Russe exigerait l'expulsion de la Bulgarie de tous les Musulmans est entièrement mensongère.

La Russie, que pratique la plus large tolérance chez elle, où des masses de Musulmans vivent paisiblement sous la protection des mêmes lois au milieu des populations Russes, a posé, au contraire, en principe l'égalité la plus parfaite entre Musulmans et Chrétiens en Bulgarie où, à l'heure qu'il est déjà, n'étant plus surexcités les uns contre les autres par les autorités Turques, ils vivent en parfaite sécurité et travaillent paisiblement aux mêmes travaux, heureux d'être délivrés des fonctionnaires Turcs, des troupes Turques, des Bachi-Bouzouks, et des Tcherkesses. C'est de ce fléau aussi fatal aux Musulmans qu'aux Chrétiens, que le Gouvernement Russe veut à jamais délivrer la Bulgarie.

Il faut tout l'acharnement que mettent les ennemis de la Russie à dénaturer les actes les plus justifiés et les plus louables de la politique Impériale pour changer une décision aussi naturelle réclamée par l'opinion publique de l'Europe, en un ostracisme général contre tous les Musulmans de la Bulgarie.

No. 1037.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 272.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 27, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 25th instant, Vice-Consul Brophy informs me that the steamer "Grand Duke Constantine" arrived on 20th at Bourgas with Admiral Popoff, and that she has been unloading and loading in a very secret manner. It is supposed that she has been placing torpedoes in bay.

No. 1038.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 273.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 27, 1878.*

I AM assured that Russians are still pressing for surrender of six Turkish iron-clads, and that the Sultan will not yield. I am also informed that, notwithstanding the agreement that the Russians were only to have 1,500 men at San Stephano, they are greatly increasing their force there. Forces now, it is stated, amount to nearly 15,000 men, and are bringing up troops in large numbers to Kuchuk-Chekmedjé.

No. 1039.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 274.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 27, 1878.*

I AM informed on good authority that the clauses regarding Bulgaria, with the exception of limits and all the clauses as to Montenegro, such as proposed by Russia and others relating to some minor matters, have been accepted by Turkish Plenipotentiaries and signed; but Russians complain of delays on the part of Turks in settling other questions, and threaten to give an ultimatum, and, if not accepted, to break off negotiations.

FO
ALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 1040.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 275.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 27, 1878.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram of 23rd only reached me this morning, and, as similar delays constantly occur, it is evident that obstructions are intentional.

No. 1041.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February 27, 1878.*

M. DEPRETIS' information from Berlin, respecting Prince Gortchakow's evasive reply respecting meeting of the Conference, tallies with that of Lord Odo Russell's telegram No. 3 of yesterday.

In speaking of this subject, his Excellency threw out the idea whether England and Austria could not induce Prince Bismarck to make a further appeal to Prince Gortchakow in order to get him to state when he would be ready, if he is not now so. His Excellency further suggested whether Prince Bismarck could not also be asked by English and Austrian Governments to state his views as to the course which the other Powers should pursue in case meeting of the Conference should apparently be indefinitely postponed by Russia's procrastination.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs recently told Italian Chargé d'Affaires that he did not see the utility of the Conference meeting, unless a programme or basis was previously agreed upon. M. Depretis replied that he did not share this opinion; that the Conference ought, if possible, to assemble with or without a basis; and he thinks that French Government have now adopted this view.

No. 1042.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, February 27, 1878.*

FOURTEEN vessels of the Turkish flotilla came down river this morning with Turkish crews, and flying Turkish colours. Eight passed on, and six remain here to coal.

No. 1043.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, February 27, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram of 21st, it is certain that the steam-ship "Grand Duke Constantine" took a quantity of torpedoes from Sebastopol, destination supposed Bosphorus, or some Turkish port in Russian hands.

No. 1044.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Crete, February 27, 1878.*

CHRISTIAN insurgents yesterday attacked Turkish soldiery. Insurgents were defeated. A few killed on both sides. Fighting continues to-day.

No. 1045.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 27, 1878, 6 P.M.*

I HAVE to-day stated to the Russian Ambassador that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it is essential that they should be informed, with as little delay as possible, of the terms of peace now being negotiated.

Your Excellency should address the same request to the Porte.

No. 1046.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 27, 1878.*

ACCORDING to information received by the Austrian Government, there is no truth in the report of some newspapers of a concentration of Russian troops on the frontier of Transylvania.

It is also untrue that Hungarian Honveds have been moved towards the frontier.

No. 1047.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 293.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 27, 1878.*

YOUR despatch No. 208 of the 9th instant has been received and laid before the Queen, and I have to state to you that the representations which you have addressed to the Turkish Prime Minister and to the Greek Minister at Constantinople on the subject of the relations between Turkey and Greece are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1048.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 294.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 27, 1878.*

YOUR despatch No. 213 of the 11th instant has been received, and I have to state to you that I entirely concur in your proposal to approve Mr. Consul Blunt for the energy and success with which he strove to maintain tranquillity in Adrianople after the withdrawal of the Ottoman authorities from that town.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1049.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 295.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 27, 1878.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatches Nos. 212 and 228 of the 10th and 14th instant respectively, giving an account of the negotiations respecting the passage of the British fleet through the Dardanelles; and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your proceedings, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

F.O. 424/67
ALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 1050.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 296.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 27, 1878.

HER Majesty's Government approve the representations which, as reported in your despatch No. 217 of the 11th instant, you have addressed to the Porte on the subject of the excesses committed by the Circassians upon the Mussulman and Christian populations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1051.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 167.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 27, 1878.

INFORMATION to the following effect has reached Her Majesty's Government:—

It is stated that the Grand Duke Nicholas threatened the Turkish Government on the 24th instant with an ultimatum and with the entry of the Russian troops into Constantinople; and that the Prime Minister answered that Safvet Pasha was authorized, if no heed was paid to the Turkish remonstrances, to give an unqualified assent to the Russian conditions, and to sign.

The Grand Duke on the following day insisted that the cost of the maintenance of the Turkish prisoners must be paid in cash on the day of their return, and that for every day of delay the Porte must pay a further indemnity of 2,000,000 fr. This claim, if really made, seems to show that fresh exactions are daily invented.

On the other hand it is stated on good authority that General Ignatiew now denies having demanded the expulsion from Bulgaria of the Mussulman population, although it is asserted on the same authority that for days he put continual pressure on Safvet Pasha to compel him to accept this demand.

It is reported that the Russian troops will continue to hold their present positions for three months, and that a whole division is to be concentrated at San Stefano, the object being to impress the Turks with the idea that they are absolutely at the mercy of Russia, and that they have nothing to hope from the Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1052.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 4. Political.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 27, 1878.

YOUR despatch No. 21 of the 11th instant has been received, and I have to state to you that I approve your having advised the Governor-General to withdraw the Bashi-Bazouks from Mirdicia, now that all serious resistance seems to have been overcome.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1053.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 5. Political.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 27, 1878.

YOUR despatch No. 20, Political, of the 11th instant has been received, and I have to state to you that the steps which you have taken to obtain the completion

of the Turkish engagement to convey a certain quantity of grain to Montenegro are approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1054.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 22. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February* 17, 1878.

IN continuation of my report under No. 21, Political, of the 11th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a despatch addressed by me to Mr. Layard the day before yesterday, informing his Excellency of the indignation that had been felt here by the non-Mussulman inhabitants at the rigorous and cruel manner in which the Turkish troops are punishing the Mirdites for their recent rising.

All active opposition, I am assured on every side, has now ceased, and therefore the Turkish Government is not pressed by absolute necessity to hurry through the punishment which, it cannot be denied, has been provoked.

The villages of Gruka, Giadri, Riolzi, Naraci, Mnella, Vigo, and Orosci have been entirely destroyed, according to the statements of eye-witnesses, but the Vali, Mustafa Pasha, and the military commanders, persist in assuring me that this is not the case, as they have received no official report to that effect from their officers.

I have been obliged to inform these authorities that past experience and present details have forced me, for the moment, to credit recitals accepted as facts of public notoriety, although they may still lack the formality of official confirmation. I have repeated to them my conviction that the Turkish Government has made a mistake in once more recalling to Europe the incapacity of its subordinates and its soldiery to repress disorders with the humanity now universally required; but I cannot conceal from your Lordship that such representations fall very hollow on minds which are capable of considering a bold denial as sufficient to overcome a disagreeable truth.

The family castle of Prenk Bib Doda at Orosci was first set fire to, but, as it was a very massive stone structure, it had finally to be blown up by gunpowder. Two retainers and relatives of the Mirdite Chieftain who had been found in the village and had been kept for some time with a number of other prisoners were shot, without trial or any apparent immediate cause, in the presence of all the captives. A third, who managed to slip his bonds, was shot down as he tried to escape.

Out of the seventy-five hostages brought to Scutari, one, who had been taken from the village of Noroci, had his arms so tightly bound that, by the time he reached this, gangrene had set in in one of them, and to-day it had to be amputated by a military surgeon.

The assertion that the soldiers robbed all the women they came across is borne out by the fact that those who have came back to Scutari are selling in the bazaars female clothing and the silver ornaments worn by the Mirdite women.

The troops have now been marched on to the eastern slopes of Mirdicia and the district of X'thela, whence rumours are reaching Scutari that the burning and pillaging has in no way abated.

By this process the Mirdites, whose means of existence have never been easy, will now probably be forced into a chronic state of depredations against the herds and granaries of their Mussulman neighbours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 1054.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Scutari, February* 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that, although I am assured by the Turkish authorities that they know nothing of the alleged burning of Orosci, and several other Mirdite villages, the foreigners and Christians here are loud in their condemnation of the

F.O. 424/16
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
ALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE

asserted acts of violence committed by the soldiery. To-day thirteen Mirdite prisoners and seventy-five peasants held as hostages have arrived in Scutari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 1055.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 23. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches addressed by me to Mr. Layard on the 12th and 16th instant, and concerning matters connected with the existing armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1055.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Scutari, February 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Lieutenant-General Hussein Husni Pasha, owing to the persistent occupation by the Montenegrins of all the villages entered by them since the date of the signature of the armistice, has on two separate occasions, under instructions from the Seraskier, lodged protests against the proceeding.

These acts have given rise here to a fear that the belligerents may be forced to bring the armistice to an end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1055.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Scutari, February 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have ascertained the authorities here have received telegraphic notice from Constantinople of the departure of a Commission composed of Turkish and Russian delegates, for the purpose of marking out the points now in the possession of the Montenegrins on these frontiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 1056.

Consul St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 11. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, February 19, 1878.*

GENERAL POPPENHEIM informed me yesterday that Russian officers, escorted by Montenegrins, have for some time past been inspecting forts on the Albanian coast, and that they, on arrival at the Austrian frontier, requested to be allowed to do the same in Dalmatia.

General Poppenheim then told me that having been applied to by the military authorities at Budua for instructions, he at once telegraphed to the effect that permission was to be peremptorily refused.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 1057.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 9. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, February 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 17th February, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting matters connected with the insurrectionary movement in Thessaly, and the subsiding of the panic caused by the arrival of the Circassians at Cavalla.

Also a copy of my despatch of the 19th instant, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the arrival of 800 regular Ottoman troops at Cavalla, and of an Italian and a German man-of-war, and the departure of a certain number of Circassians, which have contributed still more to restore confidence there. That Albanians and persons calling themselves Bashi-Bazouks, though not in Government pay, are robbing persons in the vicinity of Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1057.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, February 17, 1878.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram in cypher, and can inform your Excellency that the reports of excesses which have reached Her Majesty's Government have not been circulated here. I will, however, by to-morrow's post to Larissa, write to Mr. Longworth in the sense your Excellency instructs me, and procure reliable information, if possible, from other quarters.

Your Excellency's despatch for Mr. Longworth presented to me by Colonel Synge, will go at the same time.

Colonel Synge left Salonica very early yesterday morning.

I have received from Mr. Borrel, at Volo (date 15th instant), copies in French of letters sent to him (and to all the other Vice-Consuls at Volo, with a prayer that they be forwarded to their Governments), by the Chief of the insurgents, Basdekis, in which he protests against the Turkish authorities for attempting to starve 50,000 persons, including women and children, on Mount Pelion, instead of attacking the insurgents *in vi et armis*.

At the same time he declares that his men will not approach or enter the town of Volo, in deference to European interests.

From the 6th to the 16th instant, 8,465 regular Ottoman troops have been landed at Volo, amongst whom are a certain number of Circassians, 550 cavalry, and 24 field-pieces. The greater part of them have been sent to Demoko and Pharsala, and about 600 to Larissa.

Mr. Suter reports that in spite of the return of the Greek troops to Greece, under General Soutcho, the insurrectionary movement is spreading. That the Ottoman troops who have returned to Larissa report that their losses were heavy, while those of the insurgents were insignificant. That at Sourbei an Albanian officer of the Turkish frontier guards, with about 120 men, went over to the Greeks, who agreed to give them their arrears of pay, and 35 drachms per month, with food and clothing. That many of the Ghega and other Albanians, who have not received any pay for two years, declare that if they do not get their rations, they will return to their homes.

All Turkish families at Demoko and Pharsala have already come to Larissa, where perfect tranquillity exists.

I have the honour to inclose a copy in Greek of the proclamation, translation of which I forwarded to your Excellency by last post. I have another copy here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

P.S.—I hear from Cavalla that by the arrival of 800 regular troops, and a French and Italian man-of-war, the panic excited by the Circassian invasion has subsided. The "Research" and "Cygnet" have been recalled by the Admiral to Besika Bay.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1057.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, February 19, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a large Turkish man-of-war transport has arrived here, bringing clothes and rifles for the soldiers, and will take 2,000 Circassians to Smyrna.

At Cavalla on the 16th instant 800 Circassians were embarked for Smyrna on two small steam tugs. The agent of the Austrian Lloyds Company at Cavalla has been informed by telegram that two steamers will go to Cavalla and two to Salonica for the embarkation of Circassians, and an Italian and a German man-of-war have appeared there and gone on to Smyrna because the Vice-Consuls of their nation assured them that confidence had been restored at Cavalla, by the arrival of 800 regular troops and the departure of a certain number of Circassians which have contributed to calm the excitement of the people there.

In this city quiet prevails, but all around us in the Cazas Tickfish, Boomrouk, Langaza, Kala-Maria (some six, some only three, or even one hour off) Albanians and Bashi-Bazouks (not in Government pay) are pillaging.

Refugees, principally Circassians, continue to arrive, but these last are not by any means destitute. Mr. Master finds few objects for the benefits of the "Compassionate Fund."

I went with him to the Vali, who was very polite, and appeared very willing to co-operate. Mr. Master will make his own report.

Owing to some obstacle, the overland route from this to Larissa is unavailable, and your Excellency's despatch to Mr. Longworth and mine to him, will only go to-morrow by the Volo route by sea.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 1058.

Sir E. Thornton to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 28.)

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)

Washington, February 28, 1878.

MY Russian colleague has gone to New York to conclude a contract for 100 Lay torpedoes. They can hardly be ready under three months.

No. 1059.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 277. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, February 28, 1878.

I HAVE seen Prime Minister, who is returned from Russian head-quarters.

He speaks more hopefully of the situation, but tells me that he cannot give me the terms of peace until signed, as he is pledged not to do so. They will probably be signed on 2nd instant. Russia renounces her demand for the cession of the Turkish iron-clads, and for removal of Mussulmans from Bulgaria.

She may probably also consent to the exclusion of Salonica from Bulgaria, but she insists for the present that the Principality should extend to the Ægean, and upon including Bourgas and Midia in it. She also insists upon surrender of Eastern Armenia and Batoum. Grand Duke promised formally not to enter Constantinople if the English ships of war did not approach nearer to the city.

No. 1060.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, February 28, 1878.

KEEP the Admiral informed of all telegrams repeated to you respecting torpedoes and movements of Russian ships.

No. 1061.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 301.)

Foreign Office, February 28, 1878.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch No. 202 of the 9th instant, in which you refer to the error which occurred in the transmission of one of your cyphered telegrams, by which the word "Sultan" was converted into "Congress," I have to observe that nothing has been said attributing this mistake to Her Majesty's Embassy, and that it would appear to have been one of those errors which are so frequently made in the transmission of telegrams through the telegraph offices.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 1062.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 34.)

Foreign Office, February 28, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 103 of the 13th instant, reporting the steps which, in concert with your French colleague, you have taken to induce the Greek Government to notify to the Porte the withdrawal of the Greek troops from Turkish territory, and at the same time to take steps to prevent the departure of armed bands from Greece, and I have to convey to you my approval of your proceedings.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

END.